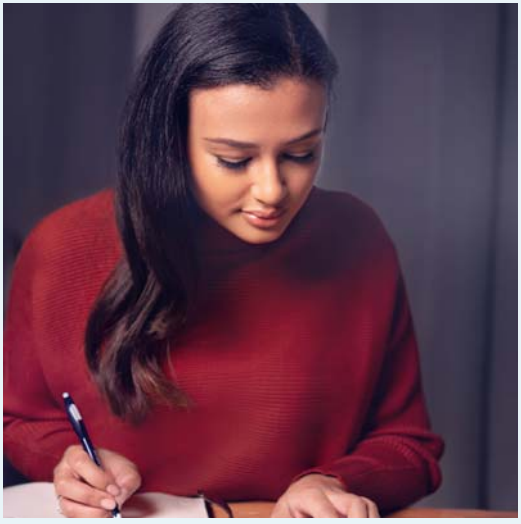

SCRIPTURES FOR **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

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SCRIPTURES FOR **CHRISTIAN LIVING**

INTRODUCTION

Scriptures for Christian Living will make it easy for you to locate Bible verses and accounts that can help you deal with the challenges you face. It will also aid you in finding just the right Bible passages to encourage others and to help them make decisions that honor Jehovah. Simply locate the topic you need, and let the pointed questions and short summaries of Bible accounts guide you along. (See "How to Navigate This Publication.") You will soon find a wealth of relevant and useful counsel, guidance, and comfort from God's Word. You will also find treasures to share with others—Bible verses that will lift their spirits, help them with their problems, and provide them with counsel and encouragement.

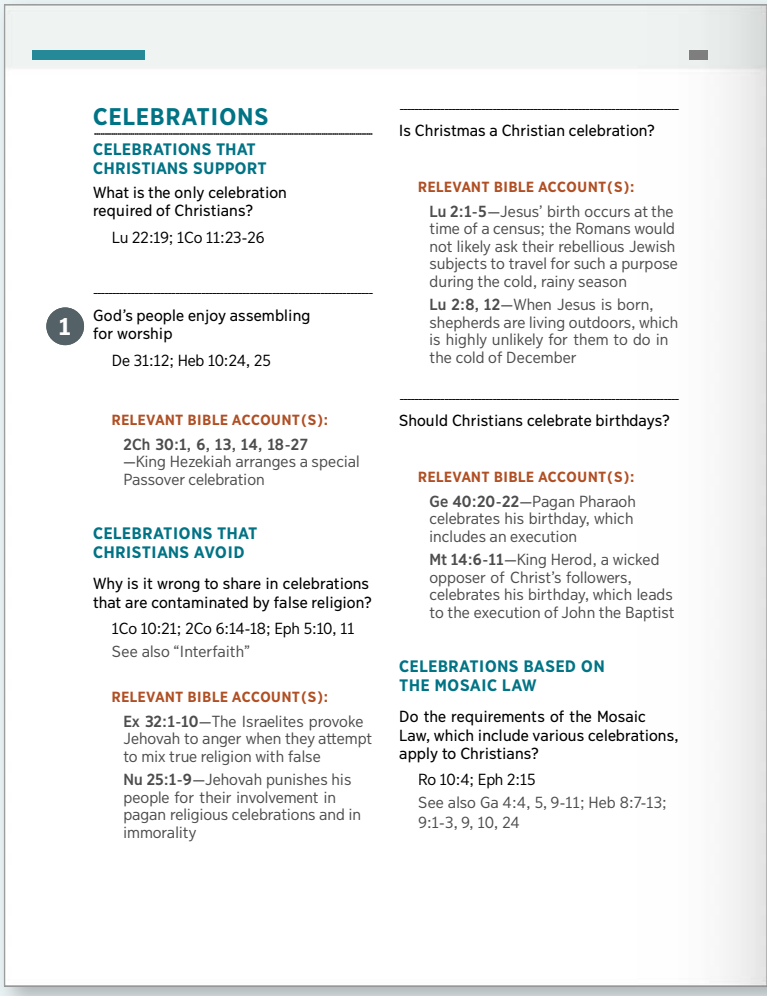
This publication does not list all the scriptures on a given topic. But it is an excellent starting point for your research. (Pr 2:1-6) To dig deeper, use the marginal references and the study notes in the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures.* Use the *Research Guide for Jehovah's Witnesses* or the *Watch Tower Publications Index* to study more fully the meaning of a scripture or its application. Consult what has been published most recently to be sure that you have the latest understanding of Scriptural truths.

May *Scriptures for Christian Living* help you uncover the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding contained in the Holy Scriptures. As you use this publication, you will be ever more convinced that "the word of God is alive and exerts power."—Heb 4:12.

HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS PUBLICATION

To find a topic, you can search alphabetically or you can browse through the categories. *Scriptures for Christian Living* is divided into seven broad categories: **Challenges, Conduct, Congregation, Daily Life, Family, Spirituality,** and **Qualities.** Most topics will fall under one of those categories. You will find the categories and their topics on the following pages. However, if you are not sure which category would feature the topic that interests you, use the list of All Topics to find the one that best suits your needs.

1 Under each topic, you will find a number of bold headings. Some are statements; others are questions. As you read the cited verses in bold type that follow the heading, reason and meditate on how they support the statement or answer the question.



CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATIONS THAT CHRISTIANS SUPPORT

What is the only celebration required of Christians?

Lu 22:19; 1Co 11:23-26

1 God's people enjoy assembling for worship

De 31:12; Heb 10:24, 25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 30:1, 6, 13, 14, 18-27—King Hezekiah arranges a special Passover celebration

CELEBRATIONS THAT CHRISTIANS AVOID

Why is it wrong to share in celebrations that are contaminated by false religion?

1Co 10:21; 2Co 6:14-18; Eph 5:10, 11

See also "Interfaith"

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 32:1-10—The Israelites provoke Jehovah to anger when they attempt to mix true religion with false

Nu 25:1-9—Jehovah punishes his people for their involvement in pagan religious celebrations and in immorality

Is Christmas a Christian celebration?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 2:1-5—Jesus' birth occurs at the time of a census; the Romans would not likely ask their rebellious Jewish subjects to travel for such a purpose during the cold, rainy season

Lu 2:8, 12—When Jesus is born, shepherds are living outdoors, which is highly unlikely for them to do in the cold of December

Should Christians celebrate birthdays?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 40:20-22—Pagan Pharaoh celebrates his birthday, which includes an execution

Mt 14:6-11—King Herod, a wicked opposer of Christ's followers, celebrates his birthday, which leads to the execution of John the Baptist

CELEBRATIONS BASED ON THE MOSAIC LAW

Do the requirements of the Mosaic Law, which include various celebrations, apply to Christians?

Ro 10:4; Eph 2:15

See also Ga 4:4, 5, 9-11; Heb 8:7-13; 9:1-3, 9, 10, 24

Are Christians required to observe the weekly Sabbath?

Col 2:16, 17

See also Ex 31:16, 17

2 NATIONALISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Should Christians share in celebrating events of a nation's political history?

Joh 15:19; 18:36; Jas 4:4

See also "Governments—Christians Remain Neutral"

Should Christians share in commemorating wars of the nations?

Ps 11:5; Isa 2:4

See also "Governments—Christians Remain Neutral" and "War"

Should Christians participate in ceremonies that give worshipful honor to prominent men?

Ex 20:5; Ro 1:25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 12:21-23—Giving worshipful honor to Herod Agrippa I leads to the king's receiving punishment from God

Ac 14:11-15—The apostles Barnabas and Paul refuse to accept inappropriate and excessive honor

Re 22:8, 9—Jehovah's angel refuses to accept worshipful honor

CHARITABLE WORKS

How does Jehovah set the example as the greatest Giver?

Joh 3:16; Ac 17:25; Ro 6:23; Jas 1:17

3 See also Ps 145:15, 16; 2Co 9:15

What kind of giving fails to please God?

Mt 6:1, 2; 2Co 9:7; 1Pe 4:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 4:3-7; 1Jo 3:11, 12—Why Cain's sacrifice fails to win God's approval

Ac 5:1-11—Ananias and Sapphira are punished because they lied about their gift and had improper motives

What kind of giving pleases God?

Mt 6:3, 4; Ro 12:8; 2Co 9:7; Heb 13:16

See also Ac 20:35

4 **RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):**

Lu 21:1-4—Jesus praises a poor widow for making a generous contribution even though the amount is very small

2 In some cases, a topic will be divided into subsections to help you navigate through the headings.

3 In some cases, "See also" verses are included. These offer thoughts that are related to the topic.

4 In many cases, you will also find "Relevant Bible account(s)" listed. A sentence introduces the key point or the lesson in the cited scripture. As you read the scripture, use the provided sentence to guide your thinking.

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ANXIETY

Do you feel anxious because of the threat of poverty, hunger, or homelessness?

Pr 10:15; 19:7; 30:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

La 3:19—The prophet Jeremiah, like many of his countrymen, is homeless after the destruction of Jerusalem

2Co 8:1, 2; 11:27—Deep poverty afflicts Christians in Macedonia, and the apostle Paul often lacks food, clothing, and shelter

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 37:25; 145:15; Pr 10:3; Mt 6:25-34
See also De 24:19

Do you feel anxious because you fear being friendless, alone, or unloved?

Job 19:19; Ec 4:10, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 18:22; 19:9, 10—The prophet Elijah feels that he is entirely alone as a faithful servant of Jehovah

Jer 15:16-21—The prophet Jeremiah feels alone among merrymakers who ignore his message

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 25:15, 16; 1Pe 5:7

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 19:1-19—Jehovah gives the prophet Elijah practical aid, listens patiently to his concerns, and encourages him with vivid reminders of His power

Joh 16:32, 33—Jesus knows that he will be abandoned, but he also knows that he is not truly alone

ASSOCIATIONS

What are the most important friendships that humans can form?

Ps 25:14; Joh 15:13-15; Jas 2:23

See also Pr 3:32

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 5:22-24—Enoch develops a close friendship with God

Ge 6:9—Noah, like his great-grandfather Enoch, walks with God

---

Why do we need good friends?

Pr 13:20; 17:17; 18:24; 27:17

See also Pr 18:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 1:16, 17—Ruth proves to be a loyal friend to Naomi

1Sa 18:1; 19:2, 4—Jonathan and David forge a strong friendship

2Ki 2:2, 4, 6—Elisha shows steadfast love for his mentor, the prophet Elijah

Why do we need to associate regularly with fellow worshippers of Jehovah?

Ro 1:11, 12; Heb 10:24, 25

See also Ps 119:63; 133:1; Pr 27:9; Ac 1:13, 14; 1Th 5:11

How can we make good friends?

Lu 6:31; 2Co 6:12, 13; Php 2:3, 4

See also Ro 12:10; Eph 4:31, 32

What are some dangers of close association with those who do not share our spiritual values?

Pr 13:20; 1Co 15:33; Eph 5:6-9

See also 1Pe 4:3-5; 1Jo 2:15-17
See also "Friendship With the World"

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 34:1, 2—Dinah chooses bad associates, leading to tragic consequences

2Ch 18:1-3; 19:1, 2—Jehovah rebukes good King Jehoshaphat for choosing to ally himself with wicked King Ahab

Should we avoid all contact with those who do not worship Jehovah God?

Mt 28:19, 20; Joh 17:15, 16; 1Co 5:9, 10

Why is it wrong to marry someone who is not a dedicated, baptized servant of Jehovah?

See "Marriage"

Why should we avoid associating with or socializing with those who have been removed from the Christian congregation?

Ro 16:17; 1Co 5:11

BRAGGING

Ps 94:4; 1Co 13:4; Jas 3:5, 14

See also Pr 21:24; Jer 9:23, 24

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jg 7:1-7—Jehovah reduces Judge Gideon's army to 300 men in order to make it clear that the victory will come from Him

2Ki 18:28-35—Through a spokesman, Assyrian King Sennacherib boasts that Jehovah cannot rescue Jerusalem from Assyria

CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATIONS THAT CHRISTIANS SUPPORT

What is the only celebration required of Christians?

Lu 22:19; 1Co 11:23-26

God's people enjoy assembling for worship

De 31:12; Heb 10:24, 25

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CHARITABLE WORKS

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See also Ac 20:35

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 21:1-4—Jesus praises a poor widow for making a generous contribution even though the amount is very small

How was the giving of contributions organized in the first-century congregation?

Ac 11:29, 30; Ro 15:25-27; 1Co 16:1-3; 2Co 9:5, 7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 4:34, 35—The Christian congregation shows generosity, and the apostles ensure that the needy benefit

2Co 8:1, 4, 6, 14—A relief ministry is organized in behalf of needy Christians

What special responsibility do Christians have toward their family and toward their spiritual brothers?

Ro 12:13; 1Ti 5:4, 8; Jas 2:15, 16; 1Jo 3:17, 18

See also Mt 25:34-36, 40; 3Jo 5-8

How does the Bible guide us in caring for the poor?

De 15:7, 8; Ps 41:1; Pr 19:17; Jas 1:27

See also Pr 28:27; Lu 14:12-14; Jas 2:1-4

What shows that people need spiritual help more than anything else?

Mt 5:3, 6; Joh 6:26, 27; 1Co 9:23

See also Pr 2:1-5; 3:13; Ec 7:12; Mt 11:4, 5; 24:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 10:39-42—Jesus helps Martha to see that spiritual things should come first

CHILDREN; YOUNG PEOPLE

GOD'S VIEW OF CHILDREN

How does Jehovah show that children and young people are precious to him?

De 6:6, 7; 14:28, 29; Ps 110:3; 127:3-5; 128:3, 4; Jas 1:27

See also Job 29:12; Ps 27:10; Pr 17:6
See also "Family"

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 1:27, 28—Jehovah makes child-rearing key to his original purpose to populate the earth

Ge 9:1—Child-rearing is key to fulfilling God's command to repopulate the earth after the Deluge

Ge 33:5—The faithful patriarch Jacob views his children as a sign of God's favor

Mr 10:13-16—Jesus reflects his Father's love for children

How does Jehovah feel about those who take advantage of or who exploit children?

Ex 22:22-24; De 10:17, 18; Ps 10:14, 15

What Bible principles show that young children should not be expected to assume adult roles or activities?

Nu 1:3; 1Co 13:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 33:12-14—Jacob recognizes that his children are delicate and cannot keep an adult's pace

Is God to blame for the harm that children suffer in this world?

Job 34:10; Jas 1:13; 1Jo 5:19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 5:18, 20, 23-25—Jesus explains that sin is the root cause of sickness

Ro 5:12—The apostle Paul explains the cause of sin and death

What assurances does Jehovah give that the afflictions of young and old will end?

Isa 11:6-9; Joh 3:16; Ac 24:15; Re 21:4

Does a bad parental example or mistreatment during childhood make a person less valuable or doom him to make similar mistakes?

De 24:16; Eze 18:1-3, 14-18

See also De 30:15, 16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 18:1-7; 2Ch 28:1-4—Despite having an abusive father who slaughtered some of his own children, Hezekiah becomes a great and faithful king

2Ki 21:19-26; 22:1, 2—Despite the wickedness of his father, Amon, Josiah becomes an outstanding king

1Co 10:11, 12—The apostle Paul explains that we can learn from the mistakes of others and choose not to repeat them

Php 2:12, 13—The apostle Paul reminds us that we have much to do with our own salvation

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

How does Jehovah view children who still live at home with a God-fearing parent?

1Co 7:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 19:12, 15—Lot's daughters receive angelic protection that is due, at least in part, to their father's righteousness

Should children of God-fearing parents assume that a good standing with God is automatic?

Pr 20:11; Eze 18:5, 10-13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Le 10:1-3, 8, 9—The sons of High Priest Aaron are put to death, possibly for drunkenness

1Sa 8:1-5—Although Samuel is a righteous prophet, his sons are corrupt

What is required of children who want to find favor with God?

Pr 1:8; 27:11; Eph 6:1-3

Why should young ones attend congregation meetings?

De 31:12, 13; Heb 10:24, 25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 15:32-38—Jesus' audience includes young children

Why is it appropriate for children to worship God?

Ps 8:2; 148:12, 13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 17:4, 8-10, 41, 42, 45-51—Jehovah uses young David to defend His name by defeating a vicious giant

2Ki 5:1-15—Jehovah uses a little Israelite girl to help a non-Israelite army chief learn about the true God

Mt 21:15, 16—Jesus treasures the efforts of children to praise the Messiah

How does God view the children of unbelieving parents?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 16:25, 26, 32, 33—Jehovah's judgment on some men who rebelled against the prophet Moses and High Priest Aaron includes the men's families

Nu 26:10, 11—Though the rebel Korah was executed, his sons were spared, evidently because of their faithful course

Why should young ones today choose their associations wisely?

Pr 13:20; 1Co 15:33

See also 2Ti 3:1-5

What kind of associates should Christian youths seek out?

2Ti 2:22

See also "Associations"

CHRISTIANS

How did Jesus' followers come to be known as Christians?

Ac 11:26

What identifies true Christians?

Joh 13:15, 35; 15:17; 1Pe 2:21

See also Ga 5:22, 23; Php 2:5, 6; 1Jo 2:6; 4:20

On what basis are true Christians saved?

Ac 4:12; 1Th 5:9; Re 7:10

See also Ac 5:30, 31; Ro 6:23

Why do Christians submit to Christ as their heavenly King?

Da 7:13, 14; Eph 5:24; Php 2:9, 10; Col 1:13

See also Ps 2:6; 45:1, 6, 7; Joh 14:23; Eph 1:19-22

Why do true Christians refrain from getting involved in the affairs of this world?

Joh 15:19; Jas 4:4; 1Jo 2:15

See also "Friendship With the World" and "Governments—Christians Remain Neutral"

Why do true Christians obey secular governments?

Ro 13:1, 6, 7; Tit 3:1; 1Pe 2:13, 14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 22:15-22—Jesus explains why his followers pay taxes

Ac 4:19, 20; 5:27-29—Jesus' followers show that their obedience to secular governments has limits

In what sense are Christians soldiers?

2Co 10:4; 2Ti 2:3

See also Eph 6:12, 13; 1Ti 1:18

Why do Christians need to live according to their beliefs?

Mt 5:16; Tit 2:6-8; 1Pe 2:12

See also Eph 4:17, 19-24; Jas 3:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 9:1, 2; 19:9, 23—Christian worship is referred to as "The Way," suggesting a way of life

Why must true Christians be witnesses of Jehovah God?

Isa 43:10, 12; Joh 17:6, 26; Ro 15:5, 6; Re 3:14

See also Heb 13:15

Why are true Christians also witnesses of Jesus Christ?

Ac 1:8; 5:42; 10:40-42; 18:5; Re 12:17

See also Ac 5:30, 32; 13:31

Why should all true Christians be preachers of the good news?

Mt 28:19, 20; Lu 10:9; Ro 10:9, 10; Re 22:17

See also Isa 61:1; 1Co 9:16

How should Christians view persecution?

See "Persecution"

Are all true Christians called to heavenly life with Jesus Christ?

Lu 12:32; Re 7:3, 4; 14:1

See also 1Pe 1:3, 4

What is the future hope of the majority of true Christians?

Ps 37:29; Re 7:9, 10; 21:3, 4

Are true Christians scattered throughout the denominations of Christendom?

Joh 10:16; 17:20, 21; 1Co 1:10

Are all who claim to be Christians really disciples of Jesus?

Mt 7:21-23; Ro 16:17, 18; 2Co 11:13-15; 2Pe 2:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 13:24-30, 36-43—Jesus gives an illustration showing that there would be many counterfeit Christians

2Co 11:24-26—The apostle Paul lists "false brothers" among the dangers he faced

1Jo 2:18, 19—The apostle John warns that "many antichrists" had already defected from the truth

COMFORT

SCRIPTURAL COMFORT FOR SOME COMMON CAUSES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

Anxiety

See "Anxiety"

Bitterness; resentment

Some are embittered by a hardship or a series of adversities

Ec 9:11, 12

See also Ps 142:4; Ec 4:1; 7:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 1:11-13, 20—Widowed and grieving the death of her two sons, Naomi feels that Jehovah has abandoned her

Job 3:1, 11, 25, 26; 10:1—Job is embittered after losing his wealth, his ten children, and his health

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ro 12:19; Jas 1:13

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 1:6, 7, 16-18; 2:2, 19, 20; 3:1; 4:14-16—Naomi draws closer to God's people and accepts and gives loving help, after which her bitterness is replaced with joy

Job 42:7-16; Jas 5:11—Job endures in faith, and Jehovah blesses him greatly

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Some are embittered by the unkind conduct of others

Ec 4:1, 2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 1:6, 7, 10, 13-16—Hannah is deeply hurt by the unkind treatment from Peninnah and is misjudged by High Priest Eli

Job 8:3-6; 16:1-5; 19:2, 3—Job's three would-be comforters are self-righteous and judgmental, making Job feel worse

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 37:8, 9; Eph 4:26

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 1:9-11, 18—After Hannah pours out her heart to Jehovah, her pain eases

Job 42:7, 8, 10, 17—After Job shows a forgiving spirit, Jehovah restores him to health and happiness

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Crushing guilt

Ezr 9:6; Ps 38:3, 4, 8; 40:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 22:8-13; 23:1-3—King Josiah and his subjects become aware of their great guilt after the Law of Moses is read aloud to them

Ezr 9:10-15; 10:1-4—The priest Ezra and the people are crushed with guilt because contrary to Jehovah's will, some have married foreigners

Lu 22:54-62—The apostle Peter is deeply grieved by guilt after he three times denies knowing Jesus

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 32:5; 103:9-14; Isa 1:18; Ac 3:19
See also Isa 38:17; Mic 7:18, 19

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 33:9-13, 15, 16—Manasseh is among the worst of all the kings of Judah; yet, he repents and is granted mercy

Lu 15:11-32—Jesus relates the parable of the lost son to illustrate how generously and completely Jehovah forgives

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Disappointment when others have let us down, hurt us, or even betrayed us

See "Disappointment"

Disappointment over our own weaknesses and sins

See "Disappointment"

Doubts about our own worth

See “Doubts”

Feelings of inadequacy in the face of a daunting challenge or assignment

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 3:11; 4:10—The prophet Moses feels inadequate when told to confront Pharaoh and lead God’s people out of Egypt

Jer 1:4-6—Jeremiah feels that he is too young and inexperienced to serve as Jehovah’s prophet to a stubborn people

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 29:11; Isa 40:29; 2Co 3:4, 5; 4:7

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 3:12; 4:11, 12—Jehovah patiently reassures the prophet Moses that He will help him in his assignment

Jer 1:7-10—Jehovah reassures the prophet Jeremiah that He will make him equal to the challenges ahead

Jealousy; envy

See “Jealousy”

Limitations imposed by illness or advancing age

Ps 71:9, 18; Ec 12:1-7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 20:1-3—King Hezekiah weeps profusely over a deadly illness

Php 2:25-30—Epaphroditus is depressed because the congregation heard that he was ill and he worried that they had the impression that he had failed to carry out his assignment

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 92:12-14; Isa 40:29-31; 46:4; 2Co 8:12

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 17:27-29; 19:31-38—Loyal Barzillai is highly valued, but he modestly refuses an assignment that he feels is too much for him in his old age

Ps 41:1-3, 12—Though King David may be seriously ill, he counts on Jehovah to sustain him

Mr 12:41-44—Jesus praises a poor widow for her contribution because she gives all she has

Lingering emotional pain over mistreatment by others

See “Mistreatment”

Morbid fear; dread

See “Fear”

Persecution

See “Persecution”

COMPASSION

Why do Christians show tender compassion?

Eph 4:32; Col 3:12; 1Pe 3:8

CONDUCT OF CHRISTIANS

Why must Christians live according to their beliefs?

Mt 5:14-16; Jas 1:22-25

What pattern of conduct should Christians follow?

Joh 13:15; 1Pe 2:21

See also 1Co 11:1; 1Jo 2:6

What can result when Christians live by God's standards?

2Co 6:3, 4; 1Pe 2:12

See also 1Ti 4:12; Tit 2:4-8; 1Pe 3:1, 2; 2Pe 2:2

Knowing what facts will help Christians to avoid wrong conduct?

Pr 4:23-27; Jas 1:14, 15

See also Mt 5:28; 15:19; Ro 1:26, 27; Eph 2:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 3:1-6—Eve succumbs to temptation instead of rejecting it

Jos 7:1, 4, 5, 20-25—When Achan disobeys Jehovah, many suffer because of his sin

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Knowing what facts will help Christians to do the right thing?

Ro 12:2; Eph 4:22-24; Php 4:8; Col 3:9, 10

See also Pr 1:10-19; 2:10-15; 1Pe 1:14-16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 39:7-12—Joseph resists temptations from Potiphar's wife

Job 31:1, 9-11—Job resolves not to give improper attention to a woman who is not his wife

Mt 4:1-11—Jesus resists temptation from Satan

What wrong attitudes should Christians avoid?

See "Wrong Attitudes"

What wrong practices should Christians avoid?

See “Wrong Practices”

What godly qualities should Christians cultivate?

Chasteness

2Co 11:3; 1Ti 4:12; 5:1, 2, 22; 1Pe 3:1, 2

See also Php 4:8; Tit 2:3-5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 39:4-12—Joseph remains chaste despite the persistent efforts of Potiphar’s wife to seduce him

Ca 4:12; 8:6—The Shulammite girl is loyal to the man she loves, and she remains pure; she is like a locked garden

Confidence in Jehovah

See “Confidence in Jehovah”

Considering others superior to oneself

See “Humility”

Contentment

See “Contentment”

Cooperation with others

Ec 4:9, 10; 1Co 16:16; Eph 4:15, 16

See also Ps 110:3; Php 1:27, 28; Heb 13:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 25:1-8—King David organizes singers and musicians for sacred service, which depends on cooperation

Ne 3:1, 2, 8, 9, 12; 4:6-8, 14-18, 22, 23; 5:16; 6:15—Jehovah blesses his people for their cooperative spirit, so they rebuild Jerusalem’s walls in just 52 days

Courage

See “Courage”

Encouraging others; being upbuilding

Isa 35:3, 4; Ro 1:11, 12; Heb 10:24, 25

See also Ro 15:2; 1Th 5:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 23:15-18—Jonathan encourages David, who is the target of persecution by King Saul

Ac 15:22-31—The first-century governing body sends a letter by means of traveling representatives, resulting in encouragement

Endurance; perseverance; steadfastness

Mt 24:13; Lu 21:19; 1Co 15:58; Ga 6:9; Heb 10:36

See also Ro 12:12; 1Ti 4:16; Re 2:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Heb 12:1-3—The apostle Paul encourages Christians to endure, citing the example of Jesus

Jas 5:10, 11—James cites Job's example of endurance and notes how Jehovah rewarded him

Faithfulness in all things

Lu 16:10

See also Ge 6:22; Ex 40:16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 1:3-5, 8-20—The prophet Daniel and his three companions stand firm regarding the dietary restrictions of the Mosaic Law

Lu 21:1-4—Jesus observes that the small contribution made by a widow is actually a sign of great faith

Fear of Jehovah

Job 28:28; Ps 33:8; Pr 1:7

See also Ps 111:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ne 5:14-19—Governor Nehemiah's fear of Jehovah prevents him from taking advantage of God's people as other governors did

Heb 5:7, 8—Jesus sets the example in showing godly fear

Fruitage of the spirit

See "Fruitage of God's Spirit"

Generosity

See "Generosity"

Godly devotion

1Ti 6:6; 2Pe 2:9; 3:11

See also 1Ti 5:4; 2Ti 3:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 10:1-7—Though Cornelius is a Gentile, Jehovah notices that he is a man of prayer who is devout, God-fearing, and generous

1Ti 3:16—Jesus sets the ultimate example of godly devotion

Gracious, wholesome speech

Pr 12:18; 16:24; Col 4:6; Tit 2:6-8

See also Pr 10:11; 25:11; Col 3:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 45:2—A Messianic prophecy foretells that Jehovah's appointed King will be gracious in speech

Lu 4:22—Jesus wins people over with gracious words

Honesty

See "Honesty"

Hospitality

See "Hospitality"

Humility; modesty

See “Humility”

Impartiality

See “Impartiality”

Industriousness; whole-souled

See “Work”

Integrity

See “Integrity”

Loving interest in the welfare of others

1Co 10:24; Php 2:4; 1Th 5:14, 15

Loyalty

See “Loyalty”

Mercy

See “Mercy”

Moderation in habits

1Ti 3:2, 11; Tit 2:2

See also Pr 23:1-3; 25:16

Obedience

See “Obedience”

Orderliness

Ga 5:25; 1Ti 3:2

See also Php 3:16

Perseverance in prayer

Ps 141:1, 2; Ro 12:12; Col 4:2; 1Th 5:17; 1Pe 4:7

See also “Prayer”

Readiness to forgive

See “Forgiveness”

Respectfulness

Php 2:3, 4; 1Pe 3:15

See also Eph 5:33; 1Pe 3:1, 2, 7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 14:1-4, 11—The Israelites show disrespect to the prophet Moses and High Priest Aaron, which Jehovah sees as disrespect to him

Mt 21:33-41—Jesus uses an illustration to show what will happen to those who disrespect Jehovah’s prophets and His Son

Spirituality; putting Jehovah’s will first

Mt 6:33; Ro 8:5; 1Co 2:14-16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Heb 11:8-10—Abraham lives in tents as a foreigner because the Kingdom of God is a reality to him

Heb 11:24-27—The prophet Moses chooses his life course as if he could see Jehovah

Submissiveness

Eph 5:21; Heb 13:17

See also Joh 6:38; Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 22:40-43—Jesus sets the example in being submissive to his Father's will even when doing so is extremely difficult

1Pe 3:1-6—The apostle Peter uses Sarah as an example of submissiveness for Christian wives to follow

Tender compassion

See "Compassion"

Truthfulness

See "Honesty"

CONFESSION OF SINS

See "Sin"

CONFIDENCE IN JEHOVAH

Pr 3:5, 21-26; Isa 26:3, 4; Jer 17:7, 8

See also Ps 34:8; 40:4, 5; Pr 20:22; Isa 30:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 5:18-20, 22—The success that some tribes of Israel experience in warfare is based on their trusting in Jehovah

2Ch 14:9-13—When facing an overwhelming enemy, King Asa prays to Jehovah and shows deep trust in his God

CONSCIENCE

What shows that Jehovah has given all humans a conscience?

Ro 2:14, 15

See also 2Co 4:2

What can happen to the conscience when a person persists in wrongdoing?

1Ti 4:2; Tit 1:15

See also Heb 10:22

Is it enough just to believe that what we are doing is right?

Joh 16:2, 3; Ro 10:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 18:1-3; 19:1, 2—King Jehoshaphat unwisely lends help to wicked King Ahab and is rebuked by Jehovah

Ac 22:19, 20; 26:9-11—The apostle Paul recounts how he once thought that it was right to persecute and kill Christ's followers

How can the conscience be properly trained?

2Ti 3:16, 17; Heb 5:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 24:2-7—King David's conscience moves him to treat Jehovah's anointed one King Saul properly

How can sinful humans have a clean conscience before God?

Eph 1:7; Heb 9:14; 1Pe 3:21; 1Jo 1:7, 9; 2:1, 2

See also Re 1:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 6:1-8—Jehovah assures the prophet Isaiah that his sins can be forgiven

Re 7:9-14—Those of the great crowd have a clean standing before Jehovah on account of the cleansing power of Christ's sacrifice

Why should we not ignore the guidance of a conscience that is trained according to God's Word?

Ac 24:15, 16; 1Ti 1:5, 6, 19; 1Pe 3:16

See also Ro 13:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 2:25; 3:6-13—Adam and Eve ignore their conscience and later feel shame for disobeying God

Ne 5:1-13—Governor Nehemiah appeals to the conscience of his fellow Jews, who are ignoring God's laws and charging high interest rates

Why should we be careful not to stumble a brother or a sister whose conscience is not yet well-trained?

1Co 8:7, 10-13; 10:28, 29

What goal should we have regarding our conscience?

2Co 1:12; 2Ti 1:3; Heb 13:18

See also Ac 23:1; Ro 9:1; 1Ti 3:8, 9

CONTENTMENT

Pr 30:8, 9; 1Ti 6:6-8; Heb 13:5

See also Mt 6:11, 19-21, 24-33; Ac 20:35; Php 4:11-13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 17:8-16—Jehovah rewards the widow of Zarephath, not with material abundance, but with enough food day by day—a miracle from which we today may derive a lesson about contentment

COUNSEL

RECEIVING COUNSEL

Why should we seek out Bible-based counsel?

Ps 32:8; Pr 15:22; 19:20; 20:18

See also Pr 11:14; Isa 28:29; Jer 32:19

Why is it better to listen to counsel than to justify oneself?

Pr 12:15; 29:1

See also Pr 1:23-31; 15:31

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 15:3, 9-23—When the prophet Samuel corrects Saul, the king justifies himself and rejects the counsel; thus, he is rejected by Jehovah

2Ch 25:14-16, 27—King Amaziah sins and then rejects corrective counsel from Jehovah's prophet, losing Jehovah's favor and protection

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Why show respect for overseers who offer counsel?

1Th 5:12; 1Ti 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

3Jo 9, 10—The aged apostle John condemns Diotrephes for the disrespectful way he treats those taking the lead in the Christian congregation

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Why listen to older ones?

Le 19:32; Pr 16:31

See also Job 12:12; 32:7; Tit 2:3-5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 23:16-18—King David listens to counsel from Jonathan, who is some 30 years his senior, and is strengthened by it

1Ki 12:1-17—King Rehoboam rejects the balanced counsel of older men and listens instead to the harsh counsel of younger men, leading to disaster

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What shows that faithful women and younger servants of Jehovah can offer valuable counsel?

Job 32:6, 9, 10; Pr 31:1, 10, 26; Ec 4:13

See also Ps 119:100

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 25:14-35—Abigail offers King David advice that saves many lives and protects him from bloodguilt

2Sa 20:15-22—A wise woman in the city of Abel saves the entire city by her counsel

2Ki 5:1-14—A little Israelite girl offers a suggestion that lets a mighty warrior know how he can be cured of leprosy

Why be cautious about listening to the counsel of those who do not respect Jehovah or his Word?

Ps 1:1; Pr 4:14

See also Lu 6:39

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 10:13, 14—King Saul consults a spirit medium instead of inquiring of Jehovah and dies because of unfaithfulness

2Ch 22:2-5, 9—King Ahaziah chooses the wrong advisers, which leads to his death

Job 21:7, 14-16—Job rejects the thinking of those who do not respect Jehovah

GIVING COUNSEL

Why is it best to listen, get all the facts, and hear both sides before offering counsel?

Pr 18:13, 17

See also Pr 25:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 1:9-16—High Priest Eli gives Hannah harsh counsel before he gathers the facts, assuming that this faithful woman is drunk

Mt 16:21-23—The apostle Peter rebukes Jesus, unwittingly offering counsel that would serve Satan's interests, not Jehovah's

Why pray to Jehovah for guidance before giving counsel?

Ps 32:8; 73:23, 24; Pr 3:5, 6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 3:13-18—The prophet Moses asks Jehovah about the best way to respond to questions that fellow Israelites might raise

1Ki 3:5-12—Young King Solomon asks Jehovah for wisdom instead of trusting in himself, which results in his receiving Jehovah's blessing

Why should we base our counsel and answers solidly on God's Word?

Ps 119:24, 105; Pr 19:21; 2Ti 3:16, 17

See also De 17:18-20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 4:1-11—Jesus bases his answers to Satan's temptations, not on his own wisdom, but on God's Word

Joh 12:49, 50—Jesus explains that he bases all his teachings on what his Father has taught him, setting a good example for us

Why should we endeavor to be mild when giving counsel and even offer sincere commendation along with counsel when possible?

Ga 6:1; Col 3:12

See also Isa 9:6; 42:1-3; Mt 11:28, 29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 19:2, 3—Through a spokesman, Jehovah corrects King Jehoshaphat but then commends him for the good that he has done

Re 2:1-4, 8, 9, 12-14, 18-20—Jesus commends several congregations before offering them counsel

If a Christian complains to us about a fellow Christian who he feels has wronged him, such as by fraud or with slander, why is it best to encourage him to talk the matter over privately with the one who has wronged him?

Mt 18:15-17; Lu 17:3

See also Le 19:17

How can we encourage a Christian who feels wronged to be merciful, patient, forgiving?

Mt 18:21, 22; Mr 11:25; Lu 6:36; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

See also Mt 6:14; 1Co 6:1-8; 1Pe 3:8, 9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 18:23-35—Jesus gives a powerful illustration to explain why it is so important for us to be forgiving

Why do we need to be firm for what is right when giving counsel?

Ps 141:5; Pr 17:10; 2Co 7:8-11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 15:23-29—The prophet Samuel refuses to be intimidated by King Saul

1Ki 22:19-28—The prophet Micaiah refuses to change his warning message to King Ahab, despite threats and violent mistreatment

How can we counsel someone without causing spiritual harm?

Heb 12:11-13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 22:31-34—Jesus expresses confidence that the apostle Peter, despite serious mistakes, will be able to strengthen others

Phm 21—The apostle Paul expresses confidence that Philemon will comply with godly counsel

How can we be kind when offering counsel to those who are troubled or feeling down?

Col 3:12; Jas 5:14-16; 1Pe 3:8

How can we show that our goal is to help and restore the one who errs?

Ga 6:1; Eph 4:32

How can we dignify those whom we counsel, regardless of age or gender?

1Ti 5:1, 2

Why do shepherds use more firmness with one who repeatedly rejects Scriptural counsel?

1Co 5:9, 11, 13; 1Ti 5:20; Tit 3:10

See also "Removal From the Congregation"

COURAGE

De 31:6; Ps 31:24; Joh 16:33

See also Ps 27:1, 2, 13, 14; Ac 28:15; Php 1:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jos 1:1-3, 8, 9—Jehovah exhorts Joshua to be courageous in the assignments that lie ahead

Ac 16:12, 22-24; 17:1, 2; 1Th 2:2—Despite vicious persecution, the apostle Paul musters up boldness to continue preaching

DECISIONS

How can we prepare our mind and heart for making good decisions?

Ps 1:1-3; Pr 19:20; Ro 14:13; 1Co 10:6-11

See also Ezr 7:10

Why should we avoid being hasty when making important decisions?

Pr 21:5; 25:8; 29:20

See also Pr 19:2; Ec 5:2; 1Ti 5:22

Why should we avoid relying on our imperfect heart when making decisions?

Pr 28:26; Jer 17:9

See also Nu 15:39; Pr 14:12; Ec 11:9, 10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 35:20-24—Good King Josiah ignores counsel that originated with Jehovah and fights against Pharaoh Necho

How important is prayer when making weighty decisions?

Php 4:6, 7; Jas 1:5, 6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 6:12-16—Jesus spends the whole night in prayer before selecting his 12 apostles

2Ki 19:10-20, 35—Faced with an overwhelming threat, King Hezekiah turns to Jehovah in prayer and is rescued

Who is the best Source of guidance for decisions, and how does he help us make decisions?

Ps 119:105; Pr 3:5, 6; 2Ti 3:16, 17

See also Ps 19:7; Pr 6:23; Isa 51:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 15:13-18—Facing a major decision, the governing body in Jerusalem relies on the Scriptures for guidance

Decisions regarding:

All the affairs of life

1Co 10:31; Col 3:17

Employment

See "Work"

Entertainment

See "Recreation"

Marriage

See "Marriage"

Medical treatment

Le 19:26; De 12:16, 23; Lu 5:31; Ac 15:28, 29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 19:18-20—The Christians in Ephesus show that they will have nothing to do with magic and spiritism

Spiritual goals

Mt 6:33; Lu 14:27-30; 18:29, 30

Use of time

Eph 5:16; Col 4:5

See also Ro 12:11

How can mature servants of God help us make good decisions?

Job 12:12; Pr 11:14; Heb 5:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 1:11-31, 51-53—Bath-sheba listens to advice from the prophet Nathan, which saves her and her son Solomon

Why should we not rely on others to make decisions for us?

Ga 6:5

Why should we be determined to apply God's counsel and not minimize it?

Ps 18:20-25; 141:5; Pr 8:33

See also Lu 7:30

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 19:12-14, 24, 25—Lot tries to warn his daughters' intended husbands about impending destruction, but they ignore him

2Ki 17:5-17—The Israelites are taken into exile because of their persistent course of ignoring Jehovah's counsel

Why should we pay keen attention to our conscience when making decisions?

Ac 24:16; 1Ti 1:19; 1Pe 3:16

How might we benefit if we consider the possible effects of a decision?

De 32:29; Ro 2:6; Ga 6:7, 8

Effects on others

Ro 14:19, 21; 15:1, 2; Php 1:10

Effects on our own future

Pr 6:26-33; 20:21; 23:17, 18

See also Pr 2:20, 21; 5:3-5

Effects on our relationship with Jehovah

Ro 8:7, 8; 12:2; Eph 5:10; Jude 21

Why should we take responsibility for our own decisions?

Ro 14:4, 10, 12; Ga 6:5

See also 2Co 5:10

DEDICATION

What is the proper motive for dedicating ourselves to Jehovah God?

De 6:5; Lu 10:25-28; Re 4:11

See also Ex 20:5

If we want to serve God, we must have what view of the Bible?

Ps 119:105; 1Th 2:13; 2Ti 3:16

See also Joh 17:17; Heb 4:12

What must we acknowledge about God's way of helping us to overcome sin?

Joh 14:6; Ac 4:12; Ro 3:23; Ga 1:4; Eph 1:7

What is involved in repenting of our former course of life?

Ac 3:19; 26:20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 19:1-10—Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, repents of his life of extortion and makes restitution for what he extorted

1Ti 1:12-16—The apostle Paul explains how he left behind a sinful life and found forgiveness through the mercy of God and Christ

In addition to stopping wrong conduct, what else must we do?

Ro 12:1, 2; Eph 4:17, 18, 22-24; 1Th 1:9

What moral standards must we comply with in order to serve God acceptably?

1Co 6:9-11; Col 3:5-9; 1Pe 1:14, 15; 4:3, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Co 5:1-13—The apostle Paul directs the Corinthian congregation to remove from their midst a man guilty of gross immorality

2Ti 2:16-19—The apostle Paul warns Timothy to reject the words of apostates, which spread like gangrene

What stand do servants of God need to take regarding the affairs of this world?

Isa 2:3, 4; Joh 15:19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 6:10-15—After Jesus miraculously feeds a large crowd, people seek to make him king, but Jesus withdraws from them

Joh 18:33-36—Jesus explains that his Kingdom has nothing to do with the politics of this world

How does holy spirit help us to serve God?

Joh 16:13; Ga 5:22, 23

See also Ac 20:28; Eph 5:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 15:28, 29—The governing body in Jerusalem is guided by holy spirit in making the landmark decision regarding circumcision

In what ways should our dedicated service to God be like that of Jesus Christ?

Mt 22:37; Joh 4:34; 6:38; Heb 10:8, 9

Why do dedicated Christians need to get baptized?

Mt 28:19, 20; Ac 2:40, 41; 8:12; 1Pe 3:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 3:13-17—Jesus presents himself to do his Father's will, symbolizing this by getting baptized

Ac 8:26-39—An Ethiopian official, already a Jewish proselyte, is ready for baptism after learning the truth about Jesus Christ

DISAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment when others let us down, hurt us, or even betray us

Ps 55:12-14; Lu 22:21, 48

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 8:1-6—The prophet Samuel is hurt and disappointed when the Israelites insist on having a king

1Sa 20:30-34—Jonathan is hurt and humiliated when King Saul, his father, turns on him in anger

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 27:10; Isa 49:15; Ro 3:3, 4
See also Pr 19:11; Php 4:8

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 55:12-14, 16-18, 22—Though betrayed by his close friend Ahithophel, King David throws his burden on Jehovah and finds comfort

2Ti 4:16-18—When under trial, the apostle Paul is forsaken by humans, but he draws power from Jehovah and from the hope that He gives

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Disappointment over our own weaknesses and sins

Job 14:4; Ro 3:23; 5:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 51:1-5—King David is deeply pained because of his sins against Jehovah

Ro 7:19-24—The apostle Paul feels miserable about his ongoing battle against his own sinful tendencies

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Ps 103:12; 130:3; Isa 43:25; 1Jo 1:9

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 9:2-5—Although King David committed some very serious sins, Jehovah remembers him as a man of integrity

1Ti 1:12-16—Despite his grave sins of the past, the apostle Paul is confident that he will be shown mercy

DISCIPLINE

Why is the Bible a sound basis for discipline?

Pr 1:1-3; 2Ti 3:16

Why do we all need guidance and correction?

Pr 16:2, 25; Jer 10:23

See also Jer 17:9

Discipline from Jehovah is evidence of what?

Pr 3:11, 12; Heb 12:7-9

See also De 8:5; Pr 13:24; Re 3:19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 12:9-13; 1Ki 15:5; Ac 13:22—Though King David's sins are very serious, Jehovah disciplines him with love and restores him

Jon 1:1-4, 15-17; 3:1-3—Jehovah disciplines the prophet Jonah for running away from an assignment but gives him a second chance

Why is it wise to take God's discipline seriously?

Pr 9:8; 12:1; 17:10; Heb 12:5, 6

See also 2Ch 36:15, 16

What may result to those who reject God's discipline?

Pr 1:24-26; 13:18; 15:32; 29:1

See also Jer 7:27, 28, 32-34

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jer 5:3-7—God's people harden their heart and refuse to change after being disciplined, leading to more severe discipline

Zep 3:1-8—Because Jerusalem's inhabitants refuse to accept Jehovah's discipline, they suffer disaster

What benefits result from heeding Jehovah's discipline?

Pr 4:13; 1Co 11:32; Tit 1:13; Heb 12:10, 11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 30:1-6—The prophet Moses foretells the blessings that will come to those who learn from Jehovah's discipline of His people

2Ch 7:13, 14—Jehovah tells King Solomon about the good effects that come from heeding divine discipline

How can we benefit from discipline administered to others?

1Co 10:6-11; 1Ti 5:20

Why should we not rejoice when others need severe discipline?

Pr 17:5; 24:17; Ob 12

What must we do if we are to benefit from God's discipline and counsel?

Jos 1:8; Jas 1:25

See also De 17:18, 19; Ps 119:97

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 22:11-13—King David promises his son Solomon that Jehovah will bless him as long as he carefully follows His guidance

Ps 1:1-6—Jehovah promises blessings to those who read his law and meditate on it

Why do loving parents discipline their children?

See "Parents"

How should children respond to parental discipline?

See "Family—Sons and Daughters"

DISCOURAGEMENT

Why is discouragement dangerous for servants of Jehovah?

Pr 24:10

Why can we be confident that Jehovah will help us combat discouragement?

Ps 23:1-6; 113:6-8; Isa 40:11; 41:10, 13; 2Co 1:3, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 11:28-30—Jesus, who perfectly reflects his Father's personality, is kind and refreshing

Mt 12:15-21—Jesus fulfills the prophecy recorded at Isaiah 42:1-4, treating discouraged ones with kindness

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Scriptural comfort for some common causes of discouragement

See "Comfort"

Why should we try to be encouraging to others?

Mt 18:6; Eph 4:29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 32:6-15—The ten faithless spies discourage the Israelites, and the whole nation suffers

2Ch 15:1-8—A message from Jehovah helps King Asa to take courage and combat idolatry in the land

DISRESPECT

What kind of disrespectful actions and attitude should we avoid?

Ps 10:13; 3Jo 9, 10

See also Ps 74:10, 18; Jude 8, 10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 2:12-17, 22-25, 27-30—The sons of High Priest Eli treat Jehovah's worship with disrespect, and Eli fails to discipline them, showing disrespect for Jehovah

2Ki 1:9-15—Jehovah executes soldiers who show disrespect for his prophet Elijah, but He spares those who show humility

DOUBTS

How might doubts about our own worth and abilities make us feel?

Nu 11:14, 15; 1Ki 19:1-4; Job 3:3; Jer 15:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 10:8-11, 18, 19—The prophet Daniel feels weak, but he is strengthened when an angel reminds him that he is precious to Jehovah

Mt 10:29-31—Jesus uses the illustration of the sparrow to show that Jehovah loves us and cares for us

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Jer 31:3; Joh 6:44; Heb 6:10; 1Pe 1:18, 19; 1Jo 3:19, 20
See also Ps 56:8; Jer 29:11

DRINKING

Does the Bible condemn the moderate use of alcoholic beverages?

Ps 104:14, 15; Ec 9:7; 10:19; 1Ti 5:23

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 2:1-11—As the first of his miracles, Jesus turns water into a generous supply of fine wine and as a result saves the bride and groom from embarrassment at their wedding feast

What dangers come from overdrinking and drunkenness?

Pr 20:1; 23:20, 21, 29-35; Isa 28:7; Ho 4:11

How do servants of God view drunkenness?

1Co 5:11; 6:9, 10; Eph 5:18; 1Ti 3:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 9:20-25—Because Noah gets drunk, he gives his grandson an opportunity to commit a serious sin

1Sa 25:2, 3, 36—Nabal, a harsh and senseless man, engages in shameful behavior that includes getting very drunk

Da 5:1-6, 22, 23, 30, 31—King Belshazzar drinks too much wine and insults Jehovah God; the king is killed that same night

Why do we need to be careful about how much we drink even if we do not get drunk?

Pr 23:20; Isa 5:11; Lu 21:34; 1Ti 3:8

See also 1Pe 4:3

How can we help a fellow Christian to fight a tendency toward overdrinking?

Ro 14:13, 21; 1Co 13:4, 5; 1Th 4:4

See also “Self-Control”

ENCOURAGEMENT

Why is it important that God’s servants encourage one another?

Isa 35:3, 4; Col 3:16; 1Th 5:11; Heb 3:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 32:2-8—When his people face a serious threat, King Hezekiah encourages them

Da 10:2, 8-11, 18, 19—An angel encourages and strengthens the aged prophet Daniel, who is in a weakened state

What obligation do those with authority have regarding encouragement?

Isa 32:1, 2; 1Pe 5:1-3

See also Mt 11:28-30

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 3:28; 31:7, 8—Just as Jehovah directs, the prophet Moses encourages and strengthens his successor, Joshua

Ac 11:22-26; 14:22—During a time of persecution, the apostles Paul and Barnabas encourage Christians in Antioch

Why is sincere commendation an important part of encouragement?

Pr 31:28, 29; 1Co 11:2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jg 11:37-40—The women of Israel visit Judge Jephthah's daughter each year to commend her for her selfless life course

Re 2:1-4—Even though Jesus needed to correct the Christians in Ephesus, he also told them what they were doing well

How may faithful servants of Jehovah encourage one another?

Pr 15:23; Eph 4:29; Php 1:13, 14; Col 4:6; 1Th 5:14

See also 2Co 7:13, 15, 16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 23:16-18—Jonathan seeks out his younger friend David and encourages him during a difficult time

Joh 16:33—Jesus encourages his followers by example and assures them that they can likewise prove victorious

Ac 28:14-16—While en route to Rome for his trial, the apostle Paul takes courage when he catches sight of the faithful brothers who have traveled to meet and encourage him

Why is it vital that we avoid a disrespectful or complaining spirit?

Php 2:14-16; Jude 16-19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 11:10-15—The prophet Moses is deeply discouraged by the negative, disobedient spirit of the people

Nu 13:31, 32; 14:2-6—The negative talk of the ten faithless spies discourages the people and leads to rebellion

Why may association with fellow believers give us courage?

Pr 27:17; Ro 1:11, 12; Heb 10:24, 25; 12:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 20:1-19—When King Jehoshaphat faces a great threat from a large army, he gathers the people together to pray

Ac 12:1-5, 12-17—After the apostle James is executed and the apostle Peter is imprisoned, the congregation in Jerusalem comes together in prayer

How might a positive outlook encourage us to persevere during hard times?

Ac 5:40, 41; Ro 8:35-39; 1Co 4:11-13; 2Co 4:16-18; 1Pe 1:6, 7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 39:19-23; 40:1-8—Although falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned, Joseph remains faithful and is eager to help others

2Ki 6:15-17—The prophet Elisha is fearless in the face of great danger, and he prays that his attendant be of the same outlook

FINDING ENCOURAGEMENT IN JEHOVAH'S WORD

What loving assurances does Jehovah offer us?

Ps 55:22; 94:14; Ro 8:38, 39; 1Co 10:13

How might contemplating Jehovah's patience and mercy encourage us?

Ne 9:17; Ps 103:13, 14; 2Pe 3:9, 15

What can Jehovah do for those who feel weak?

Ps 46:1; Isa 12:2; 40:29-31; Php 4:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 1:10, 11, 17, 18—Jehovah listens to Hannah's prayer and helps her to find relief when she is distressed and embittered

1Ki 19:1-19—When the prophet Elijah is discouraged, Jehovah provides practical help. He encourages and comforts him by giving him a hope for the future

How may our Bible-based hope for the future give us courage?

2Ch 15:7; Ps 27:13, 14; Heb 6:17-19; 12:2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 14:1, 2, 7-9, 13-15—Even in his darkest moment, Job finds comfort in the hope of a resurrection

Da 12:13—The prophet Daniel, who is about 100 years old, receives encouragement from an angel who tells him about the future reward

Why might praying to Jehovah and meditating on him lead to our encouragement?

Ps 18:6; 56:4, 11; Heb 13:6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 30:1-9—In the face of hardship, King David turns to Jehovah and gains strength

Lu 22:39-43—Facing his hardest test, Jesus prays fervently, and Jehovah responds by sending an angel to provide encouragement

What encouragement might we draw from hearing good reports and sharing them with others?

Pr 15:30; 25:25; Isa 52:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 15:2-4—The apostles Paul and Barnabas bring great encouragement to the congregations they visit

3Jo 1-4—The aged apostle John is greatly encouraged to learn of the faithfulness of those whom he taught the good news

ENDURANCE

Do servants of Jehovah need endurance?

1Co 13:4, 7; 1Ti 6:11; 2Pe 1:5, 6

Why should we expect that some people will be indifferent to our preaching work or even opposed to it?

Mt 10:22; Joh 15:18, 19; 2Co 6:4, 5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Pe 2:5; Ge 7:23; Mt 24:37-39—Though Noah is “a preacher of righteousness,” most ignore him, and only he and his family survive the Deluge

2Ti 3:10-14—The apostle Paul uses his own example of endurance to encourage Timothy to endure

Why may we expect opposition even from family members?

Mt 10:22, 36-38; Lu 21:16-19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 4:3-11; 1Jo 3:11, 12—Cain slaughters his brother because Cain’s own works are wicked, whereas Abel’s are righteous

Ge 37:5-8, 18-28—Joseph’s brothers attack him and sell him as a slave, in part because he related to them a dream from Jehovah

When persecuted, why do we not need to fear death?

Mt 10:28; 2Ti 4:6, 7

See also Re 2:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 3:1-6, 13-18—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego face death rather than compromise by committing an act of idolatry

Ac 5:27-29, 33, 40-42—Despite threats of death, the apostles persevere in the preaching work, showing endurance

What will help us to stay faithful to Jehovah even when we are disciplined?

Pr 3:11, 12; Heb 12:5-7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 20:9-12; De 3:23-28; 31:7, 8—Jehovah's discipline disappoints the prophet Moses; yet, he endures faithfully to the end

2Ki 20:12-18; 2Ch 32:24-26—King Hezekiah sins and is rebuked, but he humbles himself and endures faithfully thereafter

How might the unfaithfulness of others test our endurance?

Jer 1:16-19; Hab 1:2-4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 73:2-24—After considering the peace and prosperity of the wicked, the psalmist questions the value of enduring in his service to Jehovah

Joh 6:60-62, 66-68—Though many stop following Jesus, the apostle Peter is determined to endure in faith

What will help us to endure?

Sticking to Jehovah

De 30:19, 20; Ro 15:5, 6; 1Co 10:13

Gaining knowledge of God's Word through study and meditation

Ec 7:12; Ro 15:4; Col 1:10, 11; 2Pe 3:15-18

Approaching Jehovah in regular, heartfelt prayer

Ro 12:12; Col 4:2; 1Pe 4:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 6:4-11—The prophet Daniel continues to pray openly and regularly, despite a scheme to destroy him

Mt 26:36-46; Heb 5:7—On the last night of his earthly life, Jesus prays intensely and urges others to do the same

Associating regularly with fellow believers to worship together

Ro 1:11, 12; Heb 10:23-25

Keeping our mind focused on the rewards that Jehovah promises

Ro 8:25; 1Th 1:3; Heb 11:6; 12:1, 2

Strengthening our love for Jehovah, for our Christian brothers and sisters, and for righteousness

Mt 6:33; 1Co 13:4-7; 1Th 3:12, 13; 1Jo 4:18, 19

Strengthening our faith

Eph 6:16; 1Jo 5:4; Jude 20, 21

Maintaining the right attitude toward suffering

Ac 5:40, 41; Jas 1:2-4; 1Pe 3:14; 4:14, 16

What are some benefits of enduring faithfully?

We bring honor to Jehovah God

Pr 27:11; Joh 15:7, 8; 1Pe 1:6, 7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 1:6-12; 2:3-5—Satan challenges Jehovah regarding the integrity of Job, a challenge that can be answered only by Job's faithful endurance as a servant of Jehovah

Ro 5:19; 1Pe 1:20, 21—By enduring faithfully to the end, Jesus resolves this vital question: Can a perfect man succeed where Adam failed, maintaining integrity under the hardest tests?

We encourage others to endure

Php 1:13, 14; Jas 5:10, 11

Endurance contributes to a fruitful ministry

Ec 11:6; Lu 8:15; 2Pe 1:5-8

We gain Jehovah's approval and receive promised rewards

Mt 24:13; Lu 21:19; 1Co 15:58; Heb 10:36

See also Ro 2:6, 7; Jas 1:12

FAITH

How do we know that Jehovah greatly values faith?

Joh 3:16, 18; Ga 3:8, 9, 11; Eph 6:16; Heb 11:6

See also 2Co 5:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Heb 11:1–12:3—The apostle Paul defines faith and recounts numerous examples of faith, beginning with Abel and ending with Jesus Christ

Jas 2:18-24—James uses Abraham's example to show that our faith must be accompanied by works

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What will help us to strengthen our faith?

Ro 10:9, 10, 17; 1Co 16:13; Jas 2:17

See also Heb 3:12-14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 20:1-6, 12, 13, 20-23—When God's people face a dire threat, King Jehoshaphat tells them that to succeed they must put faith in Jehovah and in His prophets

1Ki 18:41-46—The prophet Elijah shows faith by waiting patiently for Jehovah to fulfill His promise to end a long drought

FAMILY

Jehovah created the family

Eph 3:14, 15

Parents

See "Parents"

Fathers

See "Fathers"

Mothers

See "Mothers"

Husbands, Wives

See "Marriage"

Sons and Daughters

What are the responsibilities of children in the family?

Le 19:3; Pr 1:8; 6:20; Eph 6:1

See also Pr 4:1

Why should children obey their parents?

Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 78:1-8—The Israelites recount to their children the deeds of their forefathers so that the children will put their confidence in God and not become rebellious

Lu 2:51, 52—Although perfect, Jesus remains obedient to his imperfect human parents throughout his youth

Why may children find it difficult to respect their parents?

Ro 12:1, 2; 2Ti 3:1, 2, 5

How does God view rebellious children?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 21:18-21—The Mosaic Law applies the death penalty to a son who grows up to be a stubborn and rebellious drunkard and refuses to be corrected

2Ki 2:23, 24—When a group of boys ridicule the prophet Elisha, grossly despising God's representative, many are devoured by two bears

How should parents view the privilege of raising children?

Ps 127:3; 128:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Le 26:9—To the Israelites, bearing children is a sign of Jehovah's blessing

Job 42:12, 13—Jehovah blesses Job for his remarkable integrity by giving him and his wife ten more children

How can siblings treat each other in a way that honors Jehovah?

Ps 34:14; Pr 15:23; 19:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 27:41; 33:1-11—Jacob honors his brother, Esau, paving the way for peace, and Esau responds with affection

What responsibility do grown children have toward parents and grandparents?

Pr 23:22; 1Ti 5:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 11:31, 32—When moving away from Ur, Abraham brings along his father, Terah, and cares for him until his death

Mt 15:3-6—Jesus uses the Mosaic Law to show that grown children should give support to parents in need

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In-Laws

See "In-Laws"

Grandparents

See "Grandparents"

FATHERS

What are the responsibilities of a father?

De 6:6, 7; Eph 6:4; 1Ti 5:8; Heb 12:9, 10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 22:2; 24:1-4—Abraham dearly loves Isaac and goes to great lengths to ensure that his beloved son marries a worshipper of Jehovah

Mt 13:55; Mr 6:3—Jesus is called "the carpenter's son" and also "the carpenter"; we can conclude that Joseph taught his son that useful trade

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Why is a father's God-given role in the family one to be cherished and treated with honor?

Ex 20:12

See also Mt 6:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ho 11:1, 4—Jehovah dignifies human fathers by the example he sets as a Father. He teaches his people and cares for them tenderly just as a human father does his children

Lu 15:11-32—Jesus dignifies human fathers by recounting this illustration that teaches how our heavenly Father, Jehovah, deals mercifully with those who have sinned but who are repentant

FEAR

Morbid fear; dread

De 20:8; Jg 7:3; Pr 29:25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 32:1-4, 21-24—Aaron gives in to fear of man when the people pressure him to make a golden calf

Mr 14:50, 66-72—Succumbing to fear of man, all the apostles abandon Jesus and flee, and Peter thereafter denies Christ

COMFORTING SCRIPTURES:

Isa 35:4; 41:10, 13; Heb 13:6
See also Re 2:10

COMFORTING BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 20:1-17, 22-24—King Jehoshaphat and the rest of God's people fear a large and powerful enemy, but Jehovah encourages and rescues His servants

Lu 12:4-12—Jesus teaches his followers why they need not fear men or worry about the prospect of having to defend their faith before government authorities

FORGIVENESS

How generously does Jehovah forgive?

Ps 86:5; Da 9:9; Mic 7:18

See also 2Pe 3:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 78:40, 41; 106:36-46—Jehovah repeatedly forgives his wayward people, though their sinfulness causes him pain of heart

Lu 15:11-32—Jesus illustrates Jehovah's forgiveness by describing a merciful father and his treatment of a wayward but repentant son

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On what basis does Jehovah offer forgiveness of sins?

Joh 1:29; Eph 1:7; 1Jo 2:1, 2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Heb 9:22-28—The apostle Paul explains how Christ's blood is the only provision for the forgiveness of sins

Re 7:9, 10, 14, 15—The apostle John sees in vision "a great crowd" who have a clean standing before God because of Christ's shed blood

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If we want Jehovah to forgive us, what must we do when others sin against us?

Mt 6:14, 15; Mr 11:25; Lu 17:3, 4; Jas 2:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 42:7-10—Before Jehovah removes Job's tribulation and restores him to health and prosperity, He requires that Job pray in behalf of his three misguided companions

Mt 18:21-35—Jesus vividly illustrates the importance of forgiving others if we ourselves want to be forgiven

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How important is confession and sincere repentance?

Ac 3:19; 26:20; 1Jo 1:8-10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 32:1-5; 51:1, 2, 16, 17—Because of his serious sins, King David feels crushed and brokenhearted, and he sincerely repents

Jas 5:14-16—James explains that if we commit a serious sin, we should go to the elders

What changes must we make if we want Jehovah to forgive us?

Pr 28:13; Isa 55:7; Eph 4:28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 21:27-29; 2Ch 18:18-22, 33, 34; 19: 1, 2—When King Ahab is judged, he humbles himself and Jehovah extends a measure of mercy to him; yet, he shows no evidence of real repentance, so Jehovah still sees him as wicked and has him put to death

2Ch 33:1-16—King Manasseh is extremely wicked; yet, Jehovah forgives him when he repents. Manasseh shows that he is truly a changed man by fighting idolatry and promoting pure worship

How complete is Jehovah's forgiveness of repentant sinners?

Ps 103:10-14; Isa 1:18; 38:17; Jer 31:34; Mic 7:19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 12:13; 24:1; 1Ki 9:4, 5—Though David has committed very serious sins, Jehovah forgives the repentant king and later refers to him as a man of integrity

How did Jesus perfectly reflect Jehovah's readiness to forgive?

Ps 86:5; Lu 23:33, 34

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 26:36, 40, 41—Jesus' closest followers fall asleep when he needs their support the most; nonetheless, Jesus kindly acknowledges their limitations

Mt 26:69-75; Lu 24:33, 34; Ac 2:37-41—Peter three times denies knowing Jesus, but Christ forgives his repentant apostle; Jesus appears to him personally after being resurrected and later gives him special privileges in the congregation

How do we know that there is a limit to Jehovah's forgiveness?

Mt 12:31; Heb 10:26, 27; 1Jo 5:16, 17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 23:29-33—Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees that as a group they will face the judgment of Gehenna, or permanent destruction

Joh 17:12; Mr 14:21—Jesus calls Judas Iscariot "the son of destruction" and says that this traitor would have been better off if he had not been born

What can motivate Christians to be willing to forgive?

Lu 17:3, 4; 1Co 13:4, 5; Eph 4:32; 5:1; Col 3:13

FREEDOM

Who alone in all the universe has absolute freedom?

Isa 40:13, 15; Ro 9:20, 21

See also Ro 11:33-36

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 4:29-35—Mighty King Nebuchadnezzar comes to learn that Jehovah is the Supreme Authority and answers to no one

Isa 45:6-12—Jehovah explains why he is above being questioned by his creation

Despite having absolute freedom, what are some things that Jehovah chooses never to do?

De 32:4; Job 34:10; Tit 1:2

See also Ro 9:14

Why is our freedom limited?

Ge 1:28; Ro 13:1, 5, 7; 1Co 11:3; Heb 13:17

Why should Christians restrict their own freedom for the sake of others?

Mt 7:12; 1Co 8:13

Why might it be said that Jehovah's servants enjoy considerable freedom?

Joh 8:31, 32; 2Co 3:17

See also Ga 2:4; 4:25, 26; 5:1

Why is a life of serving God a happy life?

Ps 40:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:3; Heb 11:8-10—Abraham, a servant of Jehovah, leads a life filled with hope

Heb 11:24-26—The prophet Moses finds great fulfillment, freedom, and hope in serving Jehovah

Jehovah offers freedom from what bondage?

Ro 6:16-18, 22; 8:2

Why should we not abuse our freedom as Christians?

Ga 5:13; 1Pe 2:16

When may love move Christians to give up certain freedoms?

1Co 9:19; 10:23, 24, 32, 33; 13:4, 5

How does our message free people?

Lu 4:18; Joh 8:32, 36

What kind of freedom does the Bible offer for the future?

Ro 8:21; Re 21:3, 4

In what way do those who do whatever they want become slaves?

Joh 8:34; 2Pe 2:18-20

What shows that all humans are equal in God's eyes?

1Co 7:22; Ga 3:28; Col 3:10, 11

See also 1Co 12:13

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Who controls the world of unbelieving mankind?

Eph 2:2; 1Jo 5:19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 4:5-8—Satan offers worldly rulership to Jesus, and Jesus does not deny that Satan has such authority

How would wanting to be a friend of the world affect our relationship with Jehovah?

Jas 4:4; 1Jo 2:15, 16

See also Jas 1:27

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 18:1-3; 19:1, 2—Good King Jehoshaphat is rebuked for allying himself with King Ahab, whom Jehovah has judged as wicked

How does a proper view of this world affect our choice of associations?

See "Associations"

Why do we shun the world's attitude toward material things?

See "Materialism"

Why do we shun the world's view of immoral fleshly desires?

Ga 5:19-21; 1Th 4:3-5; 1Pe 1:14, 15; 2:11

Why do Christians avoid idolizing men, women, and organizations?

Mt 4:10; Ro 1:25; 1Co 10:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 12:21-23—Jehovah strikes down King Herod Agrippa I because he accepts idolatrous adulation

Re 22:8, 9—A mighty angel refuses to allow the apostle John to bow down to him, insisting that worship go to Jehovah alone

Why do Christians remain neutral regarding politics and nationalism?

See "Governments—Christians Remain Neutral"

Why do Christians refuse to get involved with other religions?

See "Interfaith"

Why do Christians refuse to compromise on Jehovah's standards?

Lu 10:16; Col 2:8; 1Th 4:7, 8; 2Ti 4:3-5

See also Lu 7:30

Why does this world often hate and persecute Christ's followers?

Joh 15:18-20; 17:9, 14, 16

Why is it unwise to become attached to this world?

Isa 65:17; 1Jo 2:17

How do Christians show love and kindness to those who do not serve Jehovah?

Ro 12:18-20; Ga 6:10

Why should Christians respect secular laws, rulers, and officials?

Mt 22:21; Ro 13:1-7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 25:8; 26:2, 25—The apostle Paul is obedient to secular laws and respectful toward rulers

FRUITAGE OF GOD'S SPIRIT

What is the fruitage of Jehovah's spirit, and why do we need to be humble if we want to receive holy spirit?

Ga 5:22, 23; Jas 4:6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 143:1, 4-11—King David, in deep distress, meditates on Jehovah's activity and prays for holy spirit

Lu 11:9-13—Jesus uses an illustration to remind us of how willing Jehovah is to give his spirit to those who ask for it

GENEROSITY

Pr 11:25; Ac 20:35; 2Co 9:11

See also Pr 19:17; Mt 10:8; Lu 6:38

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 22:6-16—Though not allowed to build the temple as he had hoped, King David gives generously to the temple project

1Ki 17:8-16—The widow of Zarephath gives the prophet Elijah her last bit of food even though she and her son are near starvation

GOODNESS

What shows that Jehovah is good?

Ps 25:8; 31:19; 3Jo 11

See also Jer 31:12, 13; Zec 9:16, 17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 33:17-20; 34:5-7—Jehovah gives the prophet Moses a vision of His goodness, revealing a number of His beautiful qualities

Mr 10:17, 18—Jesus attributes all goodness to Jehovah, who is the Source of all goodness and who sets the standards for what is good

Why do we need to show goodness?

Pr 12:2; Ga 6:10; 1Th 5:15

See also Ro 15:2, 14; Eph 4:28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ro 5:7—The apostle Paul explains that goodness is even more important than righteousness, another vital quality

GOVERNMENTS

To which government do true Christians give their wholehearted support and allegiance?

Mt 6:9, 10, 33; 10:7; 24:14

See also Da 7:13, 14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 89:18-29—The Messianic King is described, and Jehovah grants him authority above that of all other rulers

Re 12:7-12—At the beginning of the last days, the Messianic King begins his rule and Satan is hurled out of heaven

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What role do Christ's anointed followers have in relation to God's Kingdom?

2Co 5:20; Php 3:20, 21

CHRISTIANS RESPECT SECULAR AUTHORITY

Why do we obey secular laws and pay taxes?

Ro 13:1-7; Tit 3:1; 1Pe 2:13, 14

See also Ac 25:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 22:15-22—Jesus masterfully answers a question about whether his followers should pay taxes

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Why do we not retaliate even when we are persecuted?

Joh 18:36; 1Pe 2:21-23

See also "Persecution"

CHRISTIANS REMAIN NEUTRAL

Why do Christians respectfully refuse to disobey Jehovah God even if worldly authorities demand it?

Ac 4:18-20; 5:27-29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 3:1, 4-18—Three young Hebrews refuse to obey a law of Babylon because it violates God's law

Da 6:6-10—The aged prophet Daniel refuses to obey a government ban forbidding him to pray

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How did Jesus set an example for his followers in the matter of neutrality toward human governments?

Mt 4:8-10; Joh 6:15

How might God's laws against idolatry help a Christian to remain neutral?

Ex 20:4, 5; 1Co 10:14; 1Jo 5:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 3:1, 4-18—King Nebuchadnezzar sets up an image, perhaps dedicated to the false god Marduk, and commands all his subjects to worship the image

What Bible principles may guide Christians who are ordered to take part in warfare?

Isa 2:4; Joh 18:36

See also Ps 11:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 26:50-52—Jesus makes it clear that his followers will not take part in secular warfare

Joh 13:34, 35—A Christian might ask, 'How could I be obeying this command from Jesus if I were to take up arms against those in other lands, perhaps attacking and killing my spiritual brothers and sisters?'

Why do Christians refuse to take part in protests against earthly governments?

Pr 24:21, 22; Ro 13:1-7; 1Pe 2:17

Why should Christians today not be surprised when falsely charged with subverting a government or disturbing the peace?

Lu 23:1, 2; Joh 15:18-21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 16:19-23—The apostle Paul and Silas suffer because of their preaching activity

GRANDPARENTS

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 15:9-13—King Asa bravely makes a hard decision regarding his grandmother, refusing to allow a family relationship to deter him from putting Jehovah first

Pr 13:22—Grandparents can leave behind a good spiritual inheritance

2Ti 1:5; 3:14, 15—Timothy's grandmother Lois is commended for her unhypocritical faith and her role in Timothy's early training

GREEDINESS

Lu 12:15; Col 3:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 11:4, 5, 31-33—The Israelites greedily gather quail and are punished for their sin

2Ki 5:20-27—Because of his greed, Gehazi lies and misrepresents Jehovah's prophet and suffers the consequences

GRIEF

What Bible examples show that it is natural to grieve when someone dies?

Ge 23:2; 24:67; 37:34, 35; 42:36; Joh 11:19, 31, 33-36

See also 2Sa 1:17-27; Ac 9:36-39

What shows that Jehovah yearns to provide comfort to those who grieve?

Ps 34:18; Isa 57:15; 61:1, 2

What comfort may we find in knowing about the condition of the dead?

Ec 9:5, 10; 1Th 4:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 20:37, 38—Jesus explains that the resurrection is so sure that it is as if the dead were living from God's point of view

Joh 11:5, 6, 11-14—After his dear friend Lazarus dies, Jesus compares death to sleep

Heb 2:14, 15—The apostle Paul explains that we need not be enslaved by a fear of death

Why does a person's name have greater value at the time of his death?

Pr 22:1; Ec 7:1, 2

How does the Bible describe death, and what will God do about death?

Isa 25:8; 1Co 15:26; Re 20:14; 21:3, 4

Why can we be certain of a future resurrection?

Isa 26:19; Joh 5:28, 29; Ac 24:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

There are nine resurrections described in the Bible, eight of them to life on earth. For those who grieve the loss of a loved one, each account offers comfort and hope for the future

1Ki 17:17-24—The prophet Elijah resurrects a widow's son in Zarephath, a town in Sidon

2Ki 4:32-37—The prophet Elisha resurrects a boy in the town of Shunem and restores him to his parents

2Ki 13:20, 21—A man who recently died is resurrected when his corpse touches the bones of Elisha the prophet

Lu 7:11-15—At the city of Nain, Jesus interrupts a funeral procession to resurrect the son of a widow

Lu 8:41, 42, 49-56—Jesus resurrects the young daughter of Jairus, an officer of the synagogue

Joh 11:38-44—Jesus resurrects his dear friend Lazarus, restoring him to his sisters, Martha and Mary

Ac 9:36-42—The apostle Peter resurrects Dorcas, a beloved Christian known for her kind deeds

Ac 20:7-12—The apostle Paul resurrects a young man named Eutychus, who died after falling from a window

Jesus Christ is resurrected to life as an immortal spirit person, which guarantees all our hopes for the future

Ac 17:31; 1Pe 3:18

Jesus is the first to be resurrected to heaven and to be granted immortality but not the last; his 144,000 anointed followers receive a similar resurrection

1Co 15:20, 23, 51-53; 1Th 4:16, 17; Re 14:1

How can we help those who are grieving the loss of a loved one?

Ro 12:15; 2Co 1:3, 4; 1Pe 3:8

HEART

How does the Bible show that the figurative heart is the inner person, including thoughts, intentions, qualities, and emotions?

Ps 49:3; Pr 16:9; Lu 5:22; Ac 2:26

See also De 15:7; Ps 19:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 9:46-48—Jesus corrects his apostles for the ambitious spirit he sees in their hearts

Why is it vital that we safeguard our heart?

1Ch 28:9; Pr 4:23; Jer 17:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 6:5-7—The wickedness in man's heart leads to violence and causes God to bring a global Flood

1Ki 11:1-10—King Solomon fails to protect his heart, marrying foreign wives who incline his heart away from Jehovah

Mr 7:18-23—Jesus explains that the heart is the source of all that can defile a man in God's eyes

How can we protect our heart?

Ps 19:14; Pr 3:3-6; Lu 21:34; Php 4:8

See also Ezr 7:8-10; Ps 119:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Eph 6:14-18; 1Th 5:8—In describing the spiritual armor, the apostle Paul explains that righteousness, faith, and love can protect the figurative heart just as the breastplate protects the literal heart

How can we know if there is a problem with our figurative heart?

Pr 21:2-4; Heb 3:12

See also Pr 6:12-14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 25:1, 2, 17-27—For a while, King Amaziah does what is right in God's eyes but not with a complete heart; in time, he becomes arrogant and unfaithful and suffers the consequences

Mt 7:17-20—Jesus shows that just as a bad tree produces bad fruit, a bad heart condition produces bad conduct

Why should we cultivate a good heart, and how can we do so?

Pr 10:8; 15:28; Lu 6:45

See also Ps 119:97, 104; Ro 12:9-16; 1Ti 1:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 20:1-6—When facing death, King Hezekiah implores Jehovah for mercy on the basis of having served Him with a complete heart

Mt 21:28-32—Jesus uses an illustration to show that a man's heart condition is revealed by what he does, more so than by what he says he will do

Why is it reassuring to know that Jehovah examines our heart?

1Ch 28:9; Jer 17:10

See also 1Sa 2:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 16:1-13—The prophet Samuel learns that Jehovah is not swayed by outward appearances; rather, He sees into a person's heart

2Ch 6:28-31—King Solomon's prayer at the dedication of Jehovah's temple shows that God reads the human heart mercifully and accurately

HONESTY

De 25:13-16; 2Co 8:21; Eph 4:25; Heb 13:18

See also Job 6:25; Pr 3:32; 6:16-19; 2Co 6:3, 4, 7, 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 15:1-5—Jehovah describes those who can be his close friends, and he includes honesty as a requirement

Ac 5:1-10—Ananias and Sapphira are punished for their dishonesty

HONORARY TITLES

Should Christians use honorific religious titles?

Joh 5:41

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 18:18, 19—Though he is good, Jesus refuses to accept the title "Good Teacher," ascribing all goodness to Jehovah

Why do Christians avoid addressing people by religious titles, such as "Father" or "Leader"?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 23:9-12—Jesus forbids the use of honorary titles, such as "Father" or "Leader"

1Co 4:14-17—Although the apostle Paul was like a father to many, nowhere do we see him being called Father Paul or the like

Why is it appropriate for Christians to address and treat one another as brothers and sisters?

Mt 23:8

See also Ac 12:17; 18:18; Ro 16:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 12:46-50—Jesus makes it clear that his fellow believers are his spiritual brothers and sisters

Why is it proper for Christians to use titles for secular and political rulers, judges, and other officials?

Ro 13:1, 7; 1Pe 2:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 26:1, 2, 25—The apostle Paul addresses secular rulers, such as Agrippa and Festus, by their official titles

HOSPITALITY

Ro 12:13; Heb 13:2; 1Pe 4:9

See also 1Ti 3:2; Tit 1:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:1-8—Abraham and Sarah extend hospitality to angels

Ac 16:13-15—Lydia shows warm hospitality to the apostle Paul and his companions

HUMILITY

How does Jehovah view humble ones and haughty ones?

Ps 138:6; Pr 15:25; 16:18, 19; 22:4; 1Pe 5:5

See also Pr 29:23; Isa 2:11, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 26:3-5, 16-21—King Uzziah becomes haughty; he breaks God's Law and becomes enraged when counseled; he is stricken with leprosy by God

Lu 18:9-14—Jesus uses an illustration to explain how Jehovah feels about the prayers of the haughty and of the humble

How does Jehovah respond to humble, heartfelt repentance?

2Ch 7:13, 14; Ps 51:2-4, 17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 12:5-7—King Rehoboam and the princes of Judah humble themselves before Jehovah, averting disaster

2Ch 32:24-26—Good King Hezekiah becomes haughty, but Jehovah forgives him when he humbles himself

How does showing humility help us improve our relationships with others?

Eph 4:1, 2; Php 2:3; Col 3:12, 13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 33:3, 4—Jacob shows extraordinary humility in greeting his formerly hostile brother, Esau, leading to peace between them

Jg 8:1-3—Judge Gideon humbly tells the men of Ephraim that they are superior to him, defusing their anger and averting conflict

How did Jesus Christ teach the value of humility?

Mt 18:1-5; 23:11, 12; Mr 10:41-45

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 53:7; Php 2:7, 8—As prophesied, Jesus humbly accepts his earthly assignment and even submits to a painful and humiliating death

Lu 14:7-11—Jesus uses the seating arrangements at a feast to illustrate the practical value of humility

Joh 13:3-17—Jesus sets the pattern for his followers by humbly doing the lowly job of washing the feet of his apostles

How will developing a proper view of ourselves and of others help us to be humble?

Ro 12:3, 16; 1Co 4:7; Php 2:3, 4

Why is false humility of no value?

Mt 6:16-18; Col 2:18, 23

HUSBANDS

See “Marriage”

HYPOCRISY

2Co 6:4, 6; Jas 3:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 23:7, 23-28—Jesus denounces the religious leaders for their hypocrisy

Ga 2:11-14—The apostle Paul corrects the apostle Peter for being hypocritical

IDOLATRY

1Co 5:11; 10:14; Col 3:5

See also De 4:25, 26; Isa 42:8; 1Jo 5:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 44:9-20—Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah exposes the foolishness of idol worship

Da 3:1-30—The prophet Daniel's three young Hebrew companions choose to face death in a fiery furnace rather than to take part in idolatry

IMPARTIALITY

Pr 28:21; Ro 2:11; Jas 3:17

See also Le 19:15; 2Ch 19:6, 7; 1Pe 1:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 16:4-13—Jehovah instructs his prophet Samuel not to judge based on mere appearances when anointing Israel's next king

IN-LAWS

Why should parents and in-laws be careful not to interfere in the marriage of their grown children?

Ge 2:24; Mt 19:4, 5

See also Ps 34:14; Mt 5:9; Ro 12:18; 14:10-13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 18:1-27—The prophet Moses and his father-in-law, Jethro, treat each other with dignity and respect

INTEGRITY

What is integrity?

Ps 18:23-25; 26:1, 2; 101:2-7; 119:1-3, 80

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Le 22:17-22—Jehovah requires that animal sacrifices be "sound," or whole, without significant defect; the word for "sound" is closely related to the Hebrew word translated "integrity," suggesting that integrity involves our whole, or complete, devotion to Jehovah

Job 1:1, 4, 5, 8; 2:3—Job's life course shows that in order to have integrity, a person must deeply respect Jehovah, worship Him wholeheartedly, and avoid what is bad in His eyes

Why do we need integrity?

Ps 7:8, 9; 25:21; 41:12; Pr 10:9; 11:3

See also Mr 12:30

What can motivate us to keep our integrity?

1Ch 29:17; Pr 2:7

See also Pr 27:11; 1Jo 5:3

How may we build and maintain our integrity?

Jos 24:14, 15; Ps 101:2-4

See also De 5:29; Isa 48:17, 18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 31:1-11, 16-33—Job builds up a record of integrity in his daily life by avoiding immorality and treating others with kindness and dignity. He keeps his worship of Jehovah pure and free of idolatry and his life free of materialism

Da 1:6-21—Although they are surrounded by unbelievers, Daniel and his three companions maintain integrity even when choosing what foods to eat

If a person makes a series of bad mistakes, can he ever regain his integrity?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 9:2-5; Ps 78:70-72—Because King David repented of his sins and received forgiveness, Jehovah views David as having lived a life of integrity

Isa 1:11-18—Though Jehovah denounces his people as hypocritical and full of sin, he promises that he can wash them completely clean if they repent and change their ways

INTERFAITH

Do all religious people worship the same God?

De 32:16, 17; 1Ki 11:33; 1Co 8:5, 6; 10:20

Are the many religions that teach conflicting doctrine all pleasing to Jehovah?

Mt 7:13, 14; Joh 17:3; Eph 4:4-6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jos 24:15—Joshua describes the clear choice between serving Jehovah and serving other gods

1Ki 18:19-40—Jehovah uses the prophet Elijah to show that worshippers of the true God must not engage in the worship of other gods, such as Baal

How does Jehovah feel about the gods of the nations and any worship given to them?

Ex 12:12; Nu 25:2-5; De 12:29-31; Zep 2:11

How does Jehovah feel about worship that seems to be addressed to him but is contaminated with practices that he hates?

Isa 1:13-15; 1Co 10:20-22; 2Co 6:14, 15, 17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 32:1-10—Under pressure from his fellow Israelites, Aaron makes a statue of a calf and uses it to celebrate "a festival to Jehovah," provoking Him to great anger

1Ki 12:26-30—To keep the people from going to the temple in Jerusalem, King Jeroboam uses idols to represent Jehovah, leading the people to sin

What did Jehovah teach the Israelites about joining those who worshipped other gods?

Ex 23:31-33; De 7:1-4

How did Jehovah respond when his people engaged in the religious practices of other faiths?

Jg 10:6, 7; Ps 106:35-40; Jer 44:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 11:1-9—King Solomon, under pressure from his foreign wives, offends Jehovah by promoting the worship of other gods

Ps 78:40, 41, 55-62—Asaph describes how Israel's rebellion and idolatry hurt Jehovah and caused Him to reject His people

Did Jesus support religious teachings that were not in harmony with God's Word?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 16:6, 12—Jesus compares the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees to leaven because wrong teachings quickly spread and corrupt the pure truths taught in God's Word

Mt 23:5-7, 23-33—Jesus strongly condemns the hypocritical conduct and the wrong teachings of the scribes and Pharisees

Mr 7:5-9—Jesus exposes the scribes and Pharisees for putting human tradition above the teachings of God's Word

Did Jesus encourage his followers to form separate religious groups?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 15:4, 5—Jesus uses a vine to illustrate the unity that his followers must maintain with him and with fellow Christians

Joh 17:1, 6, 11, 20-23—On the last night with his apostles before his execution, Jesus prays for the unity of all his true followers

Did the various Christian congregations in the first century share the same beliefs and worship Jehovah in the same way?

Ac 16:4, 5; Ro 12:4, 5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 11:20-23, 25, 26—The congregations in Antioch and Jerusalem demonstrate close unity and cooperation

Ro 15:25, 26; 2Co 8:1-7—Various first-century congregations share generous gifts for relief, showing that love unifies the congregations

If worshippers profess faith in Christ, is that enough to make their religion acceptable to God?

Mt 7:21-23; 2Co 11:13-15

If worshippers deviate from the teachings of Christ and the apostles, is their worship valid?

Ac 20:29, 30; 1Ti 4:1-3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 13:24-30, 36-43—Jesus uses an illustration to show that like weeds that sprout up in a field, many imitation Christians would appear and infiltrate the congregation

1Jo 2:18, 19—The aged apostle John reveals that many antichrists had already appeared by the end of the first century

What happens if false doctrine and unchristian conduct are tolerated in the congregation?

2Co 11:3; 2Pe 2:1-3; Jude 3, 4

What must Christians do to remain united?

Ro 15:5, 6; 1Co 1:10

Why should Christians not get involved in false worship?

2Co 6:14-17; Re 18:4

Why is it proper and beneficial to expose religious falsehood?

Jer 14:14; 23:13, 14, 16; Mt 15:12-14; 23:13-26

Why should we not be surprised when religious people who oppose pure worship resort to oppression and violence?

Joh 8:39, 40; 11:47, 48, 53; 16:2; Ac 17:1-5

JEALOUSY

Improper Jealousy

Pr 14:30; 1Co 13:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 4:3-8—Cain is jealous of Abel; Cain's jealousy turns into hatred that leads to murder

Ge 37:9-11—Joseph's brothers are motivated by jealousy

1Sa 18:6-9—King Saul becomes suspicious because he is jealous of David

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Jealousy; envy

Pr 27:4; 1Co 3:3; Ga 5:19, 20

What can help us to avoid being jealous?

1Co 4:7; 13:4; Ga 5:26; 6:4; 1Ti 6:6

JEHOVAH

HIS NAME

The name Jehovah is understood to mean "He Causes to Become"

Ge 1:1; Ex 3:13-15; Ps 102:25; Isa 42:5

What does Jehovah become, or what roles does he assume, in order to care for his servants?

Ps 19:14; 68:5; Isa 33:22; 40:11; 2Co 1:3, 4

See also Ps 118:14; Isa 30:20; Jer 3:14; Zec 2:5

Why is the sanctification of God's name of utmost importance?

Ps 83:18; Isa 29:23; Eze 36:23; Lu 11:2

Why is Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign, worthy of our obedience?

Re 4:11; 7:9-12

SOME OF JEHOVAH'S TITLES

Almighty—Ge 17:1; Re 19:6

Father—Mt 6:9; Joh 5:21

Grand Instructor—Isa 30:20

Jehovah of armies—1Sa 1:11

King of eternity—1Ti 1:17; Re 15:3

Majesty—Heb 1:3; 8:1

Most High—Ge 14:18-22; Ps 7:17

The Rock—De 32:4; Isa 26:4

Sovereign Lord—Isa 25:8; Am 3:7

SOME OF JEHOVAH'S OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

How does Jehovah emphasize his holiness, and how should that affect his servants?

Ex 28:36; Le 19:2; 2Co 7:1; 1Pe 1:13-16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 6:1-8—The prophet Isaiah is at first overwhelmed by a vision that emphasizes Jehovah's holiness, but a seraph reminds him that even sinful humans can be clean in God's eyes

Ro 6:12-23; 12:1, 2—The apostle Paul explains how we can fight against our sinful tendencies and pursue "the way of holiness"

How great is Jehovah's power, and what are some ways in which he uses it?

Ex 15:3-6; 2Ch 16:9; Isa 40:22, 25, 26, 28-31

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 8:12-18—The prophet Moses reminds the people that they owe all the good things they have to Jehovah's generous use of His power in their behalf

1Ki 19:9-14—Jehovah uses awesome demonstrations of his power to encourage his depressed prophet Elijah

Why is Jehovah's justice the best justice?

De 32:4; Job 34:10; 37:23; Ps 37:28; Isa 33:22

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 24:16-22—As revealed in the Mosaic Law, Jehovah's sense of justice is in perfect harmony with his mercy and love

2Ch 19:4-7—King Jehoshaphat reminds the judges he appoints that they represent Jehovah's justice, not that of any man

What reveals that Jehovah is supremely wise?

Ps 104:24; Pr 2:1-8; Jer 10:12; Ro 11:33; 16:27

See also Ps 139:14; Jer 17:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 4:29-34—Jehovah blesses King Solomon with more wisdom than all other men of his time possess

Lu 11:31; Joh 7:14-18—Jesus is greater in wisdom than Solomon; yet, Jesus humbly acknowledges the Source of his wisdom

How does Jehovah show that love is his dominant quality?

Joh 3:16; Ro 8:32; 1Jo 4:8-10, 19

See also Zep 3:17; Joh 3:35

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 10:29-31—Jesus uses the sparrow to illustrate how much Jehovah loves and values each of His human servants

Mr 1:9-11—Jehovah speaks to his Son from heaven, openly giving him what every child needs from a parent —acknowledgment, love, and approval

For what other reasons are we drawn to Jehovah? The Bible shows that among his many appealing qualities, Jehovah is also . . .

All-seeing—2Ch 16:9; Pr 15:3

Changeless; reliable—Mal 3:6; Jas 1:17

Compassionate—Isa 49:15; 63:9; Zec 2:8

Eternal; without beginning or end —Ps 90:2; 93:2

Generous—Ps 104:13-15; 145:16

Glorious—Re 4:1-6

Happy—1Ti 1:11

Humble—Ps 18:35

Kind—Lu 6:35; Ro 2:4

Loyal—Re 15:4

Majestic—Ps 8:1; 148:13

Merciful—Ex 34:6

Patient—Isa 30:18; 2Pe 3:9

Peaceful—Php 4:9

Righteous—Ps 7:9

What will happen when we get to know Jehovah God better?

De 6:4, 5; Mr 12:28-32

HOW TO SERVE JEHOVAH

What shows that Jehovah does not require more of his servants than is reasonable?

De 10:12; Mic 6:8; 1Jo 5:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 30:11-14—The Law given through the prophet Moses is not too hard for the Israelites to obey

Mt 11:28-30—Jesus, who perfectly reflects his Father, assures his followers that he is a refreshing Master

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Why is it fitting that we praise Jehovah?

Ps 105:1, 2; Isa 43:10-12, 21

See also Jer 20:9; Lu 6:45; Ac 4:19, 20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 104:1, 2, 10-20, 33, 34—The psalmist finds in creation ample reason to sing praises to Jehovah

Ps 148:1-14—Physical creation and all the angels praise Jehovah, and so should we

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How can our conduct give a witness about Jehovah?

Mt 5:16; Joh 15:8; 1Pe 2:12

See also Jas 3:13

Why should we draw closer to Jehovah?

Ps 73:28; Jas 4:8

How does humility help us draw close to God?

Ps 138:6; Isa 57:15

What role do Bible reading and meditation play in our drawing close to Jehovah?

Ps 1:1-3; 77:11-13; Mal 3:16

Why is it vital that we act on what we learn about Jehovah?

Lu 6:46-49; Jas 1:22-25

Why should we never try to hide anything from Jehovah?

Job 34:22; Pr 28:13; Jer 23:24; 1Ti 5:24, 25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 5:20-27—Gehazi tries to hide his sin, but Jehovah enables His prophet Elisha to see the truth

Ac 5:1-11—Ananias and Sapphira are exposed and punished for lying to the holy spirit

JESUS CHRIST

How important is Jesus' role in the outworking of Jehovah's purposes?

Ac 4:12; 10:43; 2Co 1:20; Php 2:9, 10

See also Pr 8:22, 23, 30, 31; Joh 1:10; Re 3:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 16:13-17—The apostle Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God

Mt 17:1-9—Jesus is transfigured before three of his apostles, and Jehovah speaks from heaven about His Son

Why was Jesus unique among all humans?

Joh 8:58; 14:9, 10; Col 1:15-17; 1Pe 2:22

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 21:1-9—Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem fulfills prophecy about the Messianic King, whom Jehovah has chosen

Heb 7:26-28—The apostle Paul explains how Jesus, the greater High Priest, differs from all other high priests

What do Jesus' miracles teach us about Jesus and his Father?

Joh 3:1, 2; 5:36

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 4:23, 24—Jesus demonstrates power over the demons and over every kind of sickness and infirmity

Mt 14:15-21—Jesus miraculously feeds thousands of hungry people by multiplying five loaves and two fish

Mt 17:24-27—Jesus miraculously provides money to support the worship of Jehovah and to prevent others from being stumbled

Mr 1:40, 41—Moved with pity by the plight of a leper, Jesus heals him, which shows a heartfelt desire to cure the sick

Mr 4:36-41—Jesus calms a violent storm, showing that his Father gives him authority even over the natural elements

Joh 11:11-15, 31-45—Jesus weeps over the death of his friend Lazarus; then Jesus shows that he hates death and its effects on the human family by resurrecting Lazarus

What was the central message of Jesus' teaching?

Mt 9:35; Lu 4:43; 8:1; Joh 18:37

What are some appealing qualities that Jesus displayed while on earth? Note how he showed that he was . . .

Approachable—Mt 13:2; Mr 10:13-16; Lu 7:36-50

Compassionate; merciful—Mr 5:25-34; Lu 7:11-15

Courageous—Mt 4:2-11; Joh 2:13-17; 18:1-6

Humble—Mt 11:29; 20:28; Joh 13:1-5; Php 2:7, 8

Loving—Joh 13:1; 14:31; 15:13; 1Jo 3:16

Obedient—Lu 2:40, 51, 52; Heb 5:8

Wise—Mt 12:42; 13:54; Col 2:3

Why did Jesus offer up his life, and how do we benefit?

Mt 20:28; Joh 3:16; Ac 10:43; 1Jo 4:9, 10

Why should we rejoice that Jesus Christ reigns as King in heaven?

Ps 72:12-14; Da 2:44; 7:13, 14; Re 12:9, 10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 45:2-7, 16, 17—This psalm shows that God's chosen King would conquer all his enemies and rule with truth, humility, and righteousness

Isa 11:1-10—When Jesus rules as King, the earth will be a peaceful paradise

What will Jesus do in the near future?

2Th 1:7-9; 2:8; Re 19:11-21

JOY

What shows that Jehovah is joyful?

Ne 8:10; 1Ti 1:11

What reasons do we have for joy?

Ps 100:2; Ec 8:15; Isa 65:14, 18; Php 4:1, 4

See also Ps 64:10; Isa 61:10; Mt 5:11, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 16:7-9, 11—The psalmist David finds abundant joy in being close to Jehovah

Heb 12:1-3—The apostle Paul explains that we, like Jesus, can find joy even in hard times because of having a hope

KINDNESS

What evidence do we see of Jehovah's kindness?

Ro 3:23, 24; Tit 3:3-6; Heb 2:9; 1Pe 5:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jon 3:10; 4:11—Jehovah kindly forgives the repentant Ninevites, even showing concern for their animals

Lu 6:32-36—Jesus motivates us to be kind by reminding us that Jehovah is kind even to those who are unthankful and wicked

What are some ways in which we can show kindness?

Pr 19:17; 22:9; Lu 6:35; Eph 4:32

See also Pr 11:17; 31:10, 26; Heb 13:16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mr 14:3-9; Joh 12:3—Jesus praises Lazarus' sister Mary for her generous act of kindness

2Ti 1:16-18—Onesiphorus refreshes the apostle Paul when he is in prison

LOVE

How has Jehovah shown love?

Jer 31:3; Joh 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1Jo 4:8, 19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 1:1, 26-31; 2:8, 9, 15, 16—Jehovah lovingly prepares the earth and a paradise home in Eden, giving humans an abundance of gifts

Ps 104:27-30—The psalmist praises Jehovah for His loving care of all living things

How can we show love?

Joh 13:34, 35; 15:12, 13; 1Pe 4:8; 1Jo 4:10, 11; 5:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 22:36-39—Jesus reveals the two greatest commandments, both of which involve love

1Co 13:1-8—The apostle Paul explains that love is important; he also tells us how we can show love

LOYALTY

Ps 18:25; Lu 1:74, 75; Eph 4:24; Re 15:4

See also Ps 116:15; 145:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 1:16, 17; 3:10—Ruth is determined to remain loyal to Naomi and to Jehovah

2Ki 2:1, 2, 4, 6—Elisha is determined to stick loyally to the prophet Elijah

LYING

How does Jehovah feel about those who do not keep their promises?

Ro 1:31, 32

See also Ps 15:4; Mt 5:37

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 9:27, 28, 34, 35—Pharaoh agrees to let God's people go; then, he breaks his promise

Eze 17:11-15, 19, 20—Jehovah punishes King Zedekiah for violating his oath and covenant with the king of Babylon

Ac 5:1-10—Ananias and Sapphira lie, pretending to give to the congregation the full proceeds of a sale

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How does Jehovah feel about those who slander others?

Ps 15:1-3; Pr 6:16-19; 16:28; Col 3:9

See also Pr 11:13; 1Ti 3:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 16:1-4; 19:24-30—Faithful Mephibosheth is slandered by his servant Ziba

Re 12:9, 10—The Devil, or Slanderer, accuses God's servants constantly

MARRIAGE

What is the origin of marriage?

Ge 1:27, 28; 2:22-24; Mt 19:4-6

Whom should a Christian choose as his or her marriage mate?

Why would a true Christian not approve of the marriage of a baptized son or daughter to someone who is not a dedicated, baptized servant of Jehovah?

1Co 7:39; 2Co 6:14, 15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 24:1-4, 7—Aged Abraham is determined to find a wife for his son Isaac from among those who serve Jehovah, not from among the Canaanites, who worship other gods

Ge 28:1-4—Isaac directs his son Jacob to find a wife from among fellow believers, not from among the Canaanites

How does Jehovah feel about those who marry an unbeliever?

De 7:3, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 11:1-6, 9-11—Jehovah becomes furious at King Solomon for ignoring divine warnings, for marrying foreign wives, and for allowing them to corrupt his heart

Ne 13:23-27—Reflecting Jehovah's righteous anger, Governor Nehemiah disciplines and corrects the wayward people who married unbelievers from various lands

Why is it wise to select a mate who serves Jehovah faithfully and has a good reputation?

Pr 18:22; 31:10, 28

See also Eph 5:28-31, 33

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 25:2, 3, 14-17—Nabal is a wealthy man, but he is harsh and abusive, making him a poor husband for Abigail

Pr 21:9—Choosing an unsuitable mate can make us unhappy and rob us of our peace

Ro 7:2—The apostle Paul explains that when a woman marries, she comes under a measure of authority exercised by her imperfect human husband; therefore, a wise woman is careful about whom she accepts as a mate

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

Why should a man be prepared to support a household before considering marriage?

1Ti 5:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 24:27—Before a man marries and possibly fathers children, he should work hard so that he is ready to support a family

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Why should two people who are courting focus on seeking wise counsel and getting to know each other well rather than on outward appearance?

Pr 13:10; 1Pe 3:3-6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 2:4-7, 10-12—Boaz learns about Ruth by observing her work habits and by considering reliable reports about her reputation, her dealings with her family, and her spirituality

Ru 2:8, 9, 20—Ruth learns about Boaz by observing his kindness, his generosity, and his love for Jehovah

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Why does Jehovah require that a couple keep morally clean during their courtship and engagement?

Ga 5:19; Col 3:5; 1Th 4:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 5:18, 19—Some physical expressions of affection are reserved for married couples

Ca 1:2; 2:6—During courtship, the shepherd boy and the Shulammite maiden exchange clean expressions of endearment, not unclean expressions of sexual passion

Ca 4:12; 8:8-10—The Shulammite girl remains chaste and shows self-control; she is like a locked garden

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Why should a couple be married according to legal requirements?

Mt 22:21; Ro 13:1; Tit 3:1

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE

What weighty responsibilities are assigned to the husband?

Eph 5:23, 25, 28-31, 33

Whose example must the Christian husband imitate when exercising headship?

1Co 11:3; Eph 5:23

How important is it for a husband to act with insight and to treat his wife lovingly?

Col 3:19; 1Pe 3:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 21:8-12—Jehovah directs Abraham to listen to his wife, Sarah, even though her suggestion displeases him

Pr 31:10, 11, 16, 28—The wise husband of a capable wife, as described in these verses, is neither controlling nor faultfinding; rather, he trusts his wife and praises her

Eph 5:33—The apostle Paul's inspired words suggest that a wife has a special need to sense her husband's love for her

THE WIFE'S ROLE

What vital assignment from Jehovah does a Christian wife fulfill?

Ge 2:18; Col 3:18; Tit 2:4, 5

Is the wife's role in any way demeaning?

Ge 1:26-28, 31; 2:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 1:8; 1Co 7:4—In marriage and in family life, the wife and mother exerts a measure of God-given authority

1Co 11:3—The apostle Paul explains that in Jehovah's arrangement, all are under some form of headship except God Almighty himself

Heb 13:7, 17—In the congregation, both men and women are to be in subjection and obedient to those assigned to take the lead

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How can the Christian wife of an unbeliever make Jehovah happy?

1Co 7:13-16; 1Pe 3:1, 2

Why should a Christian wife maintain a respectful attitude toward her husband?

Eph 5:33

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:12; 1Pe 3:5, 6—Sarah accords her husband deep respect, considering him to be her "lord," or spiritual head, even in her thoughts

What kind of wife is praised in the Bible?

Pr 19:14; 31:10, 13-31

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 24:62-67—Rebekah helps her husband, Isaac, to find comfort after the loss of his mother

1Sa 25:14-24, 32-38—Abigail protects her foolish husband and saves her household by humbly appealing to David

Es 4:6-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-6; 8:3-6—Queen Esther risks her life twice by approaching unsummoned her husband, the king, to plead for the protection of God's people

RESOLVING DIFFERENCES

What principles can help a couple to resolve problems that arise in a marriage?

1Co 13:4-8; Eph 5:33; Col 3:12-14

What principles can help a couple to have a balanced view of money?

Lu 12:15; Php 4:5; 1Ti 6:9, 10; Heb 13:5

See also "Money"

What principles can help a couple resolve issues regarding relatives and in-laws?

Ps 34:14; Mt 19:5, 6; 1Co 13:4, 5

What principles can guide a married couple when it comes to sexual relations?

Pr 5:15-20; Mt 5:27, 28; 1Co 7:3-5; 10:24; Php 2:4; Heb 13:4

Why is it vital to focus on a mate's good qualities rather than on his or her faults?

Ps 103:14; 130:3, 4; Pr 17:9; 1Pe 4:8

Why is it better to resolve problems lovingly and promptly rather than to allow resentment or anger to fester?

Ps 37:8; Pr 14:29; Eph 4:26, 27; Jas 1:19, 20

Why are fits of anger, screaming, verbal abuse, and physical abuse of any kind never an option for Christians?

Ps 11:5; Ga 5:19-21; Eph 4:31, 32; Tit 3:2

When a difference arises, what should be the goal of both the husband and the wife?

Ps 34:14; Mt 5:9; Ro 12:17, 18, 21

What blessings come from a marriage that has Jehovah as its foundation?

Ec 4:9-12

STANDARDS FOR MARRIAGE

What are Jehovah's standards regarding sexual relations and marriage?

Pr 6:32; Mt 5:27, 28; 1Co 6:9, 10; Heb 13:4

How should Christians view polygamy?

Mt 19:8, 9; 1Co 7:2; 1Ti 3:2, 12

How do we know that marriage should be between a man and a woman?

Ge 2:18, 22, 24; Mt 19:4-6; Ro 1:23-27

Why should a married couple remain together?

Mr 10:6-9; Ro 7:2, 3; 1Co 7:10, 11

What is the only Scriptural grounds for divorce among Christians?

Mt 5:32; 19:9

How does Jehovah feel about divorce without proper grounds?

Mal 2:13-16

When a marriage mate dies, is the surviving mate free to remarry?

Ro 7:2, 3; 1Co 7:39

MATERIALISM

Does the Bible condemn money and possessions or those who have them?

Ec 7:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 3:11-14—Jehovah blesses King Solomon with great wealth because of his humble spirit

Job 1:1-3, 8-10—Job is exceptionally wealthy, but he is first and foremost a man of great integrity

Why does acquiring wealth and possessions not bring satisfaction or peace of mind?

Pr 23:4, 5; Ec 2:18, 19; 5:10, 12

In what ways can riches prove to be utterly useless?

Ps 49:6, 7, 9, 10; Mt 16:26

What is the chief danger when it comes to money and possessions?

De 6:10-12; Mt 6:24; 1Ti 6:9, 10

How can the power of wealth prove deceptive?

Pr 11:4, 18, 28; 18:11; Mt 13:22

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 8:18-24—Simon foolishly believes that he can use money to buy privileges in the Christian congregation

What can the love of money cost us?

Mt 6:19-21; Lu 17:31, 32

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mr 10:17-23—A wealthy young man who is overly attached to his possessions misses out on the privilege of following Jesus

1Ti 6:17-19—The apostle Paul warns wealthy Christians to avoid arrogance, which can cost them God's favor

How can materialism weaken faith and lead to losing God's favor?

De 8:10-14; Pr 28:20; 1Jo 2:15-17

See also Ps 52:6, 7; Am 3:12, 15; 6:4-8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 31:24, 25, 28—Job clearly sees the danger of putting his confidence in wealth, which amounts to denying God

Lu 12:15-21—Jesus warns against materialism by describing a rich man who is not rich toward God

How can we find contentment with regard to material possessions?

Pr 30:8, 9; 1Ti 6:6-8; Heb 13:5

What kind of treasures outweigh material possessions, and why?

Pr 3:11, 13-18; 10:22; Mt 6:19-21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Hag 1:3-11—Through the prophet Haggai, Jehovah explains that He withholds even material blessings from His people because they have put their own homes and comforts ahead of rebuilding His sacred temple

Re 3:14-19—Jesus rebukes the congregation in Laodicea for putting more value on material wealth than on treasures of service to God

Why should we trust that Jehovah will provide us with what we need in a material way?

Ps 37:25; Pr 3:9, 10; Mt 6:25-33

MATURITY

Why should every Christian seek to become spiritually mature?

1Co 14:20; 1Ti 4:15

How can Scriptural knowledge help us grow to maturity?

Php 1:9-11; 2Ti 2:15; 3:16, 17; Heb 5:11-14; 6:1

Is maturity limited to those who are advanced in years?

Job 32:9; 1Ti 4:12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 1:6-20—Daniel and his three companions, though youthful, show remarkable maturity and integrity

Ac 16:1-5—Timothy, while still perhaps 20 years old or younger, is entrusted with a weighty assignment

What effect can good association in the congregation have on us?

Eph 4:11-14; Heb 10:24, 25

What indicates that we have a mature outlook on life?

1Co 2:14, 15; 3:1-3; Php 3:14, 15

Why should a mature Christian man consider taking on more responsibility in the congregation?

Ac 14:23; Tit 1:5-9

What is the only way we can become mature and effective in our preaching and teaching?

Lu 21:14, 15; 1Co 2:6, 10-13

See also Lu 11:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 10:19, 20—Jesus assures his followers that holy spirit will help them to know how to give a witness when on trial

MERCY

What does mercy include?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 51:1, 2—When King David begs Jehovah for mercy, he is asking for forgiveness and for cleansing from his sins

Lu 10:29-37—Jesus teaches a lesson on mercy by describing a Samaritan who showed kindness and consideration to a Jew

Why do all humans need mercy?

Ps 130:3; Ec 7:20; 1Jo 1:8

See also 1Ki 8:46-50

What example does Jehovah set when it comes to mercy?

Ex 34:6; Ne 9:17; Ps 103:8; 2Co 1:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 42:1, 2, 6-10; Jas 5:11—Jehovah shows Job mercy and teaches him to be merciful as well

Lu 15:11-32—Jesus illustrates Jehovah's mercy by describing how a father treats a wayward son who repents

Why does Jehovah show us mercy?

Ro 5:8; 1Jo 4:9, 10

See also Tit 3:4, 5

What role does Christ's sacrifice play in the forgiveness of sins?

Lu 24:47; Ac 10:43; 1Jo 1:7, 9

Why should we ask for mercy and never take this gift for granted?

Lu 11:2-4; Heb 4:16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 51:1-4—King David, crushed by guilt over his sinful course, humbly pleads with Jehovah for mercy

Lu 18:9-14—Jesus uses an illustration to emphasize that Jehovah shows mercy to those who humbly acknowledge their weaknesses

Why can even those who have committed serious sins hope to receive mercy?

De 4:29-31; Isa 55:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 33:9-13, 15—Manasseh, though an extremely wicked king, repents and pleads for mercy; he is restored as king, after which he further proves by his actions that he is truly a changed man

Jon 3:4-10—The Ninevites, though steeped in violence and bloodshed, repent of their ways and receive God's mercy

What role do a sinner's confession and change of course play in Jehovah's mercy?

Ps 32:5; Pr 28:13; 1Jo 1:9

Jehovah's mercy does not shield us from all punishment or from the consequences of our sins

Ex 34:6, 7; 2Sa 12:9-13

Why should we be merciful?

Mt 6:14; Lu 6:36; Col 3:13

If we fail to show mercy, what might be the effect on our relationship with Jehovah?

Mt 9:13; 23:23; Jas 2:13

See also Pr 21:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 18:23-35—Jesus uses an illustration to show that a person who fails to show mercy will fail to receive Jehovah's mercy

Lu 10:29-37—A well-known illustration reveals that Jehovah and Jesus disapprove of those who fail to show mercy but are pleased with people who act like the merciful Samaritan

How does Jehovah treat merciful people?

Mt 5:7; Mr 11:25

MILDNESS

How do we know that Jehovah shows mildness?

Mt 11:28, 29; Joh 14:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 19:12—Jehovah addresses the troubled prophet Elijah with "a calm, low voice"

Jon 3:10–4:11—Though Jonah speaks angrily to Jehovah, He gently teaches the prophet a lesson about mercy

How can we show mildness?

Pr 15:1; Eph 4:1-3; Tit 3:2; Jas 3:13, 17; 1Pe 3:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 11:26-29—The prophet Moses responds with mildness when Joshua wants him to restrain others who are prophesying

Jg 8:1-3—Judge Gideon's mildness defuses a potentially explosive situation

MISTREATMENT

How might we feel if we have been treated badly by others?

Ps 69:20; Pr 18:14; Ec 4:1-3; Mal 2:13-16; Col 3:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 10:1-5—Some soldiers in King David's army, though not injured physically, are cruelly humiliated by enemies, and David extends special consideration to his men

2Sa 13:6-19—Tamar weeps and rips her garment after being raped and further humiliated by Amnon

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What shows that Jehovah is fully aware of the situation when someone has been mistreated, and what will he do about it?

Job 34:21, 22; Ps 37:8, 9; Isa 29:15, 19-21; Ro 12:17-21

See also Ps 63:6, 7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 25:3, 14-17, 21, 32-38—Putting his own household at risk, Nabal—a harsh and abusive man—insults David and is struck by Jehovah

Jer 20:1-6, 9, 11-13—Jeremiah is at first discouraged when a priest named Pashhur strikes him and has him put in stocks; then Jehovah encourages and rescues his prophet

MONEY

Why is the love of money dangerous?

See "Materialism"

How does the Bible show that earning money to care for one's family is not wrong?

Ec 7:12; 10:19; Eph 4:28; 2Th 3:10; 1Ti 5:8, 18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 31:38-42—To provide for his family, Jacob works honestly for his father-in-law, Laban, who treats Jacob unfairly; yet, Jehovah blesses Jacob for his labors

Lu 19:12, 13, 15-23—Jesus gives an illustration that incidentally shows that it is normal practice in his day to invest money in order to make more money

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What Bible principles offer guidance regarding borrowing and lending money?

Ps 37:21; Pr 22:7

Why is it best to avoid unnecessary debt?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ne 5:2-8—Creditors among Governor Nehemiah's people treat debtors with great harshness

Mt 18:23-25—Jesus' illustration reminds us that a debtor who fails to repay a loan may be punished

What precaution should a person take before entering into a business arrangement, whether with an unbeliever, a fellow believer, or even a relative?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 23:14-20—It seems that to prevent later misunderstandings and conflicts, Abraham uses witnesses to confirm the purchase of a field and a cave in which to bury Sarah

Jer 32:9-12—When the prophet Jeremiah purchases land from his cousin, he draws up a deed, makes a duplicate, and carries out the transaction in front of eyewitnesses

Why is it wise to budget money carefully?

Pr 21:5; Lu 14:28-30

Why would Christians avoid letting a dispute over money cause division in the congregation?

1Co 6:1-8

See also Ro 12:18; 2Ti 2:24

How can we use our money in a way that brings real happiness?

Pr 11:25; 19:17; Lu 16:9-13; Ac 20:35

MOTHERS

What are the responsibilities of a mother?

Pr 31:17, 21, 26, 27; Tit 2:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 21:8-12—When Sarah notices Ishmael persecuting her little son, Isaac, she pleads with Abraham to protect her boy

1Ki 1:11-21—When Bath-sheba learns that the kingship and the life of her son Solomon are in danger, she pleads with King David to intervene

Why should we obey and honor our mother?

Ex 20:12; De 5:16; 27:16; Pr 1:8; 6:20-22; 23:22

See also 1Ti 5:9, 10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Pe 3:5, 6—The apostle Peter explains that Sarah became like a mother to many daughters because of her strong faith

Pr 31:1, 15, 21, 28—The mother of King Lemuel provides vital counsel to her son, the king, regarding marriage and the honorable role of a wife and mother

2Ti 1:5; 3:15—The apostle Paul is inspired to praise Timothy's mother, Eunice, for teaching her son the Scriptures from infancy even though her husband is an unbeliever

NEUTRALITY

See "Governments"

OBEDIENCE

How important is obedience?

Ex 19:5; De 10:12, 13; Ec 12:13; Jas 1:22

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 15:17-23—The prophet Samuel rebukes King Saul for disobeying Jehovah; then Samuel stresses the importance of obedience

Heb 5:7-10—Although Jesus has always been a perfect Son of God, he learned to be obedient when being treated badly while on earth

What should a Christian do if a human authority asks him to disobey God?

Ac 5:29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 3:13-18—Even at the risk of their life, three loyal Hebrews refuse to bow down to an image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar

Mt 22:15-22—Jesus explains that his followers obey the secular authorities unless such authorities ask them to disobey Jehovah God

Ac 4:18-31—Even when ordered by the authorities to stop, the apostles boldly continue to preach

What must we do if we are to obey Jehovah's commandments consistently?

De 6:1-5; Ps 112:1; 1Jo 5:2, 3

See also Ps 119:11, 112; Ro 6:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ezr 7:7-10—The faithful priest Ezra prepares his heart so that he can take the lead in obeying God's Law and in teaching it to others

Joh 14:31—Jesus reveals why he does just as his Father commands him to do

What should motivate us to obey Jehovah and Jesus?

Joh 14:21; 1Jo 2:5; 2Jo 6

How does our obedience demonstrate our faith?

Ro 1:5; 10:16, 17; Jas 2:20-23

See also De 9:23

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 6:9-22; Heb 11:7—Noah shows his faith by building an ark exactly as Jehovah commands, doing "just so"

Heb 11:8, 9, 17—Abraham demonstrates his faith by obeying Jehovah's commands not only to leave Ur but also to offer up his own son

How does Jehovah bless obedience?

Jer 7:23; Mt 7:21; 1Jo 3:22

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Le 26:3-6—Jehovah promises to bless and care for those who obey him

Nu 13:30, 31; 14:22-24—Caleb shows an obedient spirit, and he receives Jehovah's blessing as a result

To what does disobedience lead?

Ro 5:19; 2Th 1:8, 9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 2:16, 17; 3:17-19—Because they disobey Jehovah God, Adam and Eve lose out on Paradise, perfection, and everlasting life

De 18:18, 19; Ac 3:12, 18, 22, 23—Jehovah foretells the coming of the Prophet greater than Moses and reveals that disobeying that one will bring dire consequences

Jude 6, 7—The rebellious angels and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah incite Jehovah to anger because of their disobedience

Why should we obey Jesus Christ?

Ge 49:10; Mt 28:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 12:46-48; 14:24—Jesus explains that failure to obey his words leads to adverse judgment

Why do Christians obey overseers in the congregation?

Heb 13:17

Why should a Christian wife be in subjection to her husband?

1Co 11:3; Eph 5:22, 24; Col 3:18; Tit 2:4, 5; 1Pe 3:1-6

Why are children obedient to their parents?

Pr 23:22; Eph 6:1; Col 3:20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 37:3, 4, 8, 11-13, 18—Young Joseph obeys his father and travels to see his brothers even though they hate him

Lu 2:51—Jesus remains in subjection to Joseph and Mary even though he is perfect and his human parents are not

Why is it wise to obey a secular employer even when we are not being watched by others?

Eph 6:5; Col 3:22; 1Pe 2:18

Why are Christians obedient to governments?

Ro 13:1-6; Tit 3:1; 1Pe 2:13, 14

OLD AGE; OLDER ONES

What happens as we grow older?

Ps 71:9; 90:10

See also “Comfort—Limitations imposed by illness or advancing age”

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ec 12:1-8—In poetic terms, King Solomon describes some of the infirmities that come with age, such as diminished vision (“the ladies looking out the windows find it dark”) and diminished hearing (“the daughters of song grow faint”)

Can older ones maintain their joy despite trials and limitations that come with advancing age?

2Co 4:16-18; Jas 1:2-4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 12:2, 23—Elderly prophet Samuel knows how important it is that he continue to pray in behalf of Jehovah’s people

2Sa 19:31-39—King David is grateful to elderly Barzillai for his loyal support, and Barzillai modestly acknowledges his limitations when asked to do more than he is able

Ps 71:9, 18—Fearful of not being useful in his old age, King David begs Jehovah not to cast him off but to give him strength so that he can teach the next generation about Him

Lu 2:36-38—The prophetess Anna, an elderly widow, is blessed for her devotion and faithful service

How does Jehovah assure older ones that he values them?

Ps 92:12-14; Pr 16:31; 20:29; Isa 46:4; Tit 2:2-5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 12:1-4—At 75 years of age, Abraham receives a life-changing assignment from Jehovah

Da 10:11, 19; 12:13—An angel visits the prophet Daniel, who is in his 90's, to assure him that he is precious to Jehovah and that he will be rewarded for his faithfulness

Lu 1:5-13—Jehovah blesses elderly Zechariah and Elizabeth with the miraculous birth of a son, John

Lu 2:25-35—Jehovah grants elderly Simeon the privilege of seeing the infant who will become the Messiah; Simeon utters an inspired prophecy about him

Ac 7:23, 30-36—The prophet Moses is 80 years old when Jehovah entrusts him with leadership over His people, Israel

How should faithful older ones be treated?

Le 19:32; 1Ti 5:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 45:9-11; 47:12—Joseph sends for his elderly father, Jacob, and provides for him until his death

Ru 1:14-17; 2:2, 17, 18, 23—Ruth supports an older woman, Naomi, with words and actions

Joh 19:26, 27—While dying on the torture stake, Jesus entrusts the care of his mother to his beloved apostle John

What are a few practical ways in which Christians might help older ones in the congregation?

1Ti 5:3-5, 8-10, 16; Jas 2:14-17

OVERSEERS

What qualifications should Christian overseers meet to a reasonable degree?

1Ti 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9; Jas 3:17, 18; 1Pe 5:2, 3

Congregation overseers also need to be exemplary in fulfilling what Christian requirements?

Mt 28:19, 20; Ga 5:22, 23; 6:1; Eph 5:28; 6:4; 1Ti 4:15; 2Ti 1:14; Tit 2:12, 14; Heb 10:24, 25; 1Pe 3:13

What qualifications should ministerial servants meet to a reasonable degree?

1Ti 3:8-10, 12, 13

See also Ga 6:10; 1Ti 4:15; Tit 2:2, 6-8

How is God's spirit involved when brothers are appointed as overseers?

Ac 20:28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 13:2-5; 14:23—Traveling overseers Paul and Barnabas make appointments of responsible men in various congregations; circuit overseers today do likewise, praying for holy spirit and carefully adhering to the spirit-inspired Scriptures, which lay out the qualifications

Tit 1:1, 5—Titus is entrusted with the work of traveling to various congregations, making appointments of elders

To whom does the congregation belong, and what price was paid for it?

Ac 20:28; 1Pe 5:2

Why are overseers described as those who minister to, or serve, others?

Mt 23:10, 11; Mr 10:42-44; Heb 13:17

Why must overseers remain humble?

Php 1:1; 2:5-8; 1Th 2:6-8; 1Pe 5:1-3, 5, 6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 20:17, 31-38—The apostle Paul reviews with the elders from Ephesus his years of work, and they respond well to his love and affection

How does a Christian overseer view direction that comes from "the faithful and discreet slave"?

Mt 24:45, 46; Ac 15:2, 6; 16:4, 5; Heb 13:7, 17

See also Ac 2:42; 8:14, 15

What is the best way for elders to teach others?

1Ti 4:12; 1Pe 5:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ne 5:14-16—Because of his awe and respect for Jehovah, Governor Nehemiah refrains from misusing his authority over God's people, not even taking what is due him

Joh 13:12-15—Jesus teaches his followers by setting the example in being humble

How can a Christian shepherd show loving concern for each individual in the congregation?

Mt 18:12-14; Joh 17:12; Ac 20:17, 18, 35; 1Th 2:7-12

How do elders assist those who are spiritually sick?

Ga 6:1; Jas 5:14, 15

When teaching, what responsibility do elders have?

1Ti 1:3-7; 2Ti 2:16-18; Tit 1:9

See also 2Co 11:2-4

Why must elders be diligent about keeping the congregation morally clean?

1Co 5:1-5, 12, 13; Jas 3:17; Jude 3, 4; Re 2:18, 20

See also 1Ti 5:1, 2, 22

Elders are actively involved in what training?

2Ti 2:1, 2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 10:5-20—Jesus trains his 12 apostles before sending them out in the preaching work

Lu 10:1-11—Jesus gives 70 disciples careful instructions before sending them out in the preaching work

What will help elders to care for their many responsibilities?

1Pe 5:1, 7

See also Pr 3:5, 6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 3:9-12—King Solomon prays to Jehovah for the discernment and understanding needed to judge Jehovah's people

2Ch 19:4-7—King Jehoshaphat appoints judges in the cities of Judah, reminding them that Jehovah will be with them as they carry out this awesome responsibility

How should the congregation view faithful overseers?

1Th 5:12, 13; 1Ti 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17

See also Eph 4:8, 11, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 20:37—The Ephesian elders do not hesitate to show their affection for the apostle Paul

Ac 28:14-16—As the apostle Paul journeys toward Rome, brothers from that city travel some 65 kilometers (40 mi) to meet him at the Marketplace of Appius, encouraging him greatly

PARENTS

What are some reasons why Jehovah created marriage?

Ge 1:27, 28; 2:18, 20-24

How should parents view their children?

Ps 127:3-5; 128:3

See also "Children; Young People"

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 33:4, 5—Jacob sees his children as blessings from Jehovah

Ex 1:15, 16, 22; 2:1-4; 6:20—Amram and Jochebed become parents to Moses, and they risk their lives to protect him

Parents have what duty regarding their children?

De 6:6, 7; 11:18, 19; Pr 22:6; 2Co 12:14; 1Ti 5:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 1:1-4—Elkanah brings his family to the festivals at Shiloh, ensuring that each child is able to participate

Lu 2:39, 41—Joseph and Mary customarily travel with their children from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover

What are the benefits of training children in Jehovah's ways?

Pr 1:8, 9; 22:6

See also 2Ti 3:14, 15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 2:18-21, 26; 3:19—Samuel's parents offer their son to serve at the tabernacle, but they visit the boy regularly and help care for his needs; he grows up to be an outstanding spiritual man

Lu 2:51, 52—Jesus remains subject to his parents even though they are imperfect

Where can parents find guidance for rearing their children?

De 6:4-9; Eph 6:4; 2Ti 3:14-17

See also Ps 127:1; Pr 16:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jg 13:2-8—After being told that his wife will miraculously bear a son, Manoah asks for more guidance on how to raise the child

Ps 78:3-8—Jehovah wants parents to share the Scriptural knowledge they have

When should parents start to teach their children God's ways?

2Ti 3:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 29:10-12, 29; 31:12; Ezr 10:1—Children are included in religious gatherings to learn about Jehovah's ways

Lu 2:41-52—Joseph and Mary customarily bring their children, including Jesus, to the festival of the Passover at the temple in Jerusalem

Even if a child grows up in a family that loves God, why might he still turn away from serving Jehovah?

Eze 18:1-13, 20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 6:1-5; Jude 6—Despite spending countless ages in heaven with Jehovah, many spirit sons of God choose to rebel

1Sa 8:1-3—Though Samuel is a faithful and righteous prophet, his sons become dishonest and corrupt

What examples should parents follow when it comes to protecting their children from those who might harm them?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 19:4; De 32:11, 12—Jehovah compares himself to an eagle that carries, protects, and cares for its young

Isa 49:15—Jehovah promises to care for and protect his servants in a way that exceeds even the compassion that a nursing mother shows for her baby

Mt 2:1-16—Satan tries to destroy the baby Jesus by leading pagan astrologers to wicked King Herod, but Jehovah protects His son by directing Joseph to move his family to Egypt

Mt 23:37—Jesus compares his desire to help his people to the way a mother hen gathers and protects her chicks under her wings

Why should parents teach their children about sexual matters?

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Le 15:2, 3, 16, 18, 19; De 31:10-13—The Mosaic Law speaks frankly of sexual matters, and Jehovah directs that children be present when it is read aloud

Ps 139:13-16—The psalmist David praises Jehovah for the wonderful design of the human body, including its reproductive system

Pr 2:10-15—Knowledge and wisdom from Jehovah can protect us from those who are perverse and devious

Why should discipline be administered in a loving way?

Pr 13:24; 29:17; Jer 30:11; Eph 6:4

See also Ps 25:8; 145:9; Col 3:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 32:1-5—Though King David feels the weight of Jehovah's discipline, he is relieved to learn that Jehovah forgives those who are truly repentant of their sins

Jon 4:1-11—The prophet Jonah speaks angrily and disrespectfully to Jehovah; yet, Jehovah patiently teaches him about mercy

Why can discipline be viewed as an expression of love?

Pr 3:11, 12; 13:24

See also Pr 15:32; Re 3:19

PATIENCE

How has Jehovah shown patience?

Ro 2:4; 9:22

See also Ne 9:30

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jer 7:23-25—Jehovah summarizes the history of his extraordinary patience toward his wayward people

2Pe 3:3-9, 15—The apostle Peter explains how and why Jehovah has shown great patience, and he says that Jehovah's patience will reach its end

Why must we develop patience?

Pr 25:15; Eph 4:1-3; 2Ti 2:24, 25; 4:2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 39:19-21; 40:14, 15, 23; 41:1, 9-14—Though Joseph is sold into slavery and is unjustly imprisoned in Egypt for years, he patiently endures and maintains his faith

Heb 6:10-15—The apostle Paul uses the example of Abraham to teach Christians the value of patience

PEACE

What shows that Jehovah values peace?

1Co 14:33; Jas 3:17

How can we strive for greater peace?

Ps 119:165; Isa 48:17, 18; Ro 12:17-21; Php 4:6-9

See also Joh 16:33; Eph 6:14, 15; Col 3:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 32:9-21; 33:1-4—Jacob goes to great lengths to make peace with his brother, Esau

Mt 5:23-26—Jesus explains the importance and the benefits of making peace

PERSECUTION

Why should Christians expect to be persecuted?

Mt 10:22; Joh 15:19-21; 16:2, 3; 2Ti 3:12

When persecuted, why should we turn to Jehovah for support?

Ps 55:22; 2Co 12:9, 10; 2Ti 4:16-18; Heb 13:6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 19:1-18—When being persecuted, the prophet Elijah pours out his heart to Jehovah and receives encouragement and comfort

Ac 7:9-15—Joseph is persecuted by his brothers, but Jehovah remains loyal to him, rescues him, and uses him to rescue his family

What are some forms of persecution?

Verbal abuse

2Ch 36:16; Mt 5:11; Ac 19:9; 1Pe 4:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 18:17-35—The Rabshakeh, a spokesman for the king of Assyria, insults Jehovah and taunts the people of Jerusalem

Lu 22:63-65; 23:35-37—Jesus' persecutors insult and mock Jesus while he is in custody and while he is on the torture stake

Opposition from relatives

Mt 10:21, 35, 36

Arrests and being brought before public officials

Mt 10:18; Mr 1:14; Lu 20:20; 21:12; Ac 5:18; 8:3; Re 2:10

Physical abuse

Mt 27:29, 30; Joh 19:1; Ac 5:40; 16:22, 23; 2Co 11:23-25

Mob action

Lu 4:28, 29; Ac 14:19; 17:5

Murder

Mt 24:9; Ac 12:1, 2

How should Christians conduct themselves when persecuted?

Mt 5:44; Ac 16:25; 1Co 4:12, 13; 1Pe 2:23

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 7:57–8:1—Though about to die as a result of mob violence, the disciple Stephen asks God to show mercy to his persecutors, who include Saul of Tarsus

Ac 16:22-34—Though the apostle Paul is beaten and put in stocks, he shows kindness to his jailer, which leads the man and his entire household to become believers

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What happened to some first-century Christians?

Ac 7:52, 54, 60

What is the proper view of persecution?

Ac 5:41; Php 1:27-29; Heb 11:24-26

How does our hope for the future strengthen us during times of persecution?

Mt 10:28, 29; Heb 11:35-40

See also Php 3:8, 10, 11; Re 2:10

Why do we refuse to allow persecution to make us feel shame, fear, or discouragement, and why do we refuse to quit serving Jehovah?

Ps 56:1-4; Ac 4:18-20; 2Ti 1:8, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 32:1-22—When faced with the threat of an attack by the overwhelming forces of King Sennacherib, faithful King Hezekiah relies on Jehovah and strengthens the people; he is greatly rewarded

Heb 12:1-3—Persecutors seek to shame Jesus, but he despises that shame, refusing to let it discourage him in any way

What good may come from persecution?

Our endurance under trial pleases Jehovah and brings honor to his name

1Pe 2:19, 20; 4:12-16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 1:6-22; 2:1-10—Though he does not know that Satan is behind his terrible trials, Job refuses to turn against Jehovah, thus glorifying God and proving Satan a liar

Da 1:6, 7; 3:8-30—Faithful Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) are willing to face a horrific death rather than disobey Jehovah; as a result, pagan King Nebuchadnezzar glorifies Jehovah publicly

Persecution may open the way for a further witness

Lu 21:12, 13; Ac 8:1, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 11:19-21—Christians scattered by persecution continue to spread the good news far and wide

Php 1:12, 13—The apostle Paul is pleased that his imprisonment has actually advanced the cause of the good news

Our endurance under persecution may strengthen fellow believers

Php 1:14; 2Th 1:4

What role do religious leaders and politicians often play in persecuting faithful ones?

Jer 26:11; Mr 3:6; Joh 11:47, 48, 53; Ac 25:1-3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 19:24-29—In Ephesus, those making shrines of Artemis view the Christian message against idolatry as a threat to their profitable trade, so they persecute the Christians

Ga 1:13, 14—Before becoming a Christian, Paul (Saul) is driven by his religious zeal for Judaism, so he persecutes the congregation

Who is behind the persecution of Jehovah's servants?

1Pe 5:8; Re 12:17

PORNOGRAPHY

Job 31:1; Ps 101:2, 3; Mt 5:27-30; Col 3:5

See also 1Co 6:18; Eph 4:17-19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 6:1, 2; Jude 6—Some angels look lustfully at women, and this leads to the angels' ruin

2Sa 11:2-4—King David's sin involving adultery and murder begins with his looking at another man's wife while she is bathing

PRAYER

How do we know that Jehovah listens to and answers prayers?

Ps 65:2; 145:18; 1Jo 5:14

See also Ps 66:19; Ac 10:31; Heb 5:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 18:36-38—Jehovah responds swiftly to the prophet Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel during his showdown with the prophets of Baal

Mt 7:7-11—Jesus encourages us to persist in prayer and assures us that Jehovah as a loving Father listens to us

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To whom alone should Christians direct their prayers?

Ps 5:1, 2; 69:13; Mt 6:9; Php 4:6

In whose name do we pray?

Joh 15:16; 16:23, 24

Whose prayers does Jehovah hear?

Ac 10:34, 35; 1Pe 3:12; 1Jo 3:22; 5:14

Whose prayers does Jehovah refuse to hear?

Pr 15:29; 28:9; Isa 1:15; Mic 3:4; Jas 4:3; 1Pe 3:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jos 24:9, 10—Jehovah refuses to listen to Balaam because what he asks runs contrary to God's will

Isa 1:15-17—Because his people have become hypocritical and bloodguilty, Jehovah refuses to hear their prayers

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What is a proper way to end a prayer, and why?

1Ch 16:36; Ps 41:13; 72:19; 89:52; 1Co 14:16

Does the Bible require that we assume a specific position when praying?

1Ki 8:54; Mr 11:25; Lu 22:39, 41; Joh 11:41

See also Jon 2:1

What are some things that servants of Jehovah can pray for when they meet together for worship?

Ac 4:23, 24; 12:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ch 29:10-19—King David leads the congregation of Israel in prayer when the people's voluntary donations for the temple are collected

Ac 1:12-14—The apostles, Jesus' brothers, Mary the mother of Jesus, and some other faithful women are in an upper room in Jerusalem praying together

Why should the one praying never exalt himself or seek to impress others?

Mt 6:5; Lu 18:10-14

Is it fitting to pray at mealtimes?

Mt 14:19; Ac 27:35; 1Co 10:25, 26, 30, 31

Why should we never become negligent about praying to our heavenly Father?

Ro 12:12; Eph 6:18; 1Th 5:17; 1Pe 4:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 6:6-10—Even under the threat of death, the prophet Daniel continues his habit of praying openly to Jehovah

Lu 18:1-8—Jesus uses the example of an unrighteous judge who gives in to a woman's persistent pleas for justice to illustrate that our righteous Father will respond readily to his servants' persistent pleas for help

What attitude should we have if we want God to hear our prayers for forgiveness?

2Ch 7:13, 14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 22:11-13, 18-20—Because King Josiah humbles himself and seeks to please Jehovah, he is treated with great mercy and kindness

2Ch 33:10-13—King Manasseh humbly prays, which leads to receiving forgiveness from Jehovah and to being restored to the throne

What does Jehovah require of us if we want to be forgiven?

Mt 6:14, 15; Mr 11:25; Lu 17:3, 4

Why should we express our support for God's will in our prayers?

Mt 6:10; Lu 22:41, 42

Why should our prayers reflect our faith in our heavenly Father?

Mr 11:24; Heb 6:10; Jas 1:5-7

What are some proper subjects for prayer?

The sanctification of God's name

Lu 11:2

The coming of God's Kingdom to rule over all the earth

Mt 6:10

The accomplishment of Jehovah's will

Mt 6:10; 26:42

Requests for our material needs

Lu 11:3

The forgiveness of our sins

Da 9:19; Lu 11:4

Protection from temptations

Mt 6:13

Thanksgiving

Eph 5:20; Php 4:6; 1Th 5:17, 18

Requests for knowledge of God's will, for understanding, and for wisdom

Pr 2:3-6; Php 1:9; Jas 1:5

See also Ps 119:34

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 3:11, 12—Jehovah is pleased with King Solomon's request for wisdom and grants it in a large way

Requests for holy spirit

Lu 11:13; Ac 8:14, 15

Requests in behalf of fellow worshippers, including those undergoing persecution

Ac 12:5; Ro 15:30, 31; Jas 5:16

See also Col 4:12; 2Ti 1:3

Expressions of praise

Ps 86:12; Isa 25:1; Da 2:23

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 10:21—Jesus publicly praises his Father for revealing spiritual truths to those who are humble like children

Re 4:9-11—Jehovah's heavenly family offers him due honor and glory

Requests to motivate people in authority to let us worship Jehovah in peace and preach to people

Mt 5:44; 1Ti 2:1, 2

See also Jer 29:7

Is it fitting to pray on the occasion of our baptism?

Lu 3:21

Is it fitting to pray in behalf of those who are spiritually sick?

Jas 5:14, 15

Why do men usually pray with the head uncovered, and why do women sometimes pray with the head covered?

1Co 11:2-16

What is even more important than the length or the intensity of our prayers?

La 3:41; Mt 6:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Ki 18:25-29, 36-39—In response to the prophet Elijah's challenge, the prophets of Baal cry out to their god for hours on end—but to no avail

Ac 19:32-41—Idolaters in Ephesus chant frantically to the goddess Artemis for two hours, achieving nothing but a rebuke from the city recorder

PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS

Why do all true Christians make public declaration of their faith?

Mt 28:19, 20; Ro 10:9, 10; Heb 13:15

See also Ac 1:8; 1Co 9:16

What example did Jesus set in the preaching work?

Lu 8:1; Joh 18:37

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 4:42-44—Jesus says that he was sent to the earth to preach

Joh 4:31-34—Jesus explains that his work of preaching the good news is like food for him

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Are the men with authority in the congregation the only ones who have the responsibility to preach the good news?

Ps 68:11; 148:12, 13; Ac 2:17, 18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ki 5:1-4, 13, 14, 17—A young Israelite girl tells her Syrian mistress about Jehovah's prophet Elisha

Mt 21:15, 16—Jesus refutes the argument of the chief priests and scribes, who object to the way young boys praise Jesus in the temple

What role do Christian overseers play in preaching the good news and in teaching others?

1Th 1:5, 6; 2Ti 2:2; 1Pe 5:2, 3

How do Jehovah and Jesus enable us to accomplish the preaching work?

2Co 4:7; Php 4:13; 2Ti 4:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 16:12, 22-24; 1Th 2:1, 2—Though the apostle Paul and his companions are mistreated, they continue to preach boldly with God's help

2Co 12:7-9—The apostle Paul, a tireless preacher, suffers from "a thorn in the flesh," perhaps a physical ailment; yet, Jehovah gives him the strength to continue in the preaching work

Who or what qualifies a Christian to preach?

1Co 1:26-28; 2Co 3:5; 4:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 7:15—Jesus' countrymen are astonished that Jesus has such knowledge without having studied at the rabbinic schools

Ac 4:13—Jesus' apostles are perceived as ordinary and uneducated men; yet, they are zealous, outspoken preachers

How do we know that Jehovah wants us to train others to preach and teach?

Mr 1:17; Lu 8:1; Eph 4:11, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 50:4, 5—In his prehuman existence, the Messiah receives personal training from Jehovah God

Mt 10:5-7—While on earth, Jesus patiently trains his disciples to carry out the preaching work

How should we view our assignment of preaching the good news?

Mt 11:29, 30; 1Ti 1:12

What effect does sharing in the preaching work have on a Christian?

Lu 10:1, 17; Ac 13:48, 52; 15:3; 20:35

What messages are included in the preaching work?

Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20; Ac 26:20; Re 14:6, 7

See also Isa 12:4, 5; 61:1, 2

Why do Christians expose false teachings?

2Co 10:4, 5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mr 12:18-27—Jesus reasons from the Scriptures with the Sadducees to prove that they are mistaken about the resurrection

Ac 17:16, 17, 29, 30—The apostle Paul reasons with the Athenians to show that idolatry is wrong

How is the preaching work carried out?

Ac 5:42; 17:2; 20:20

What is the basis for witnessing publicly?

Joh 18:20; Ac 16:13; 17:17; 18:4

See also Pr 1:20, 21

What shows that our ministry requires patience and persistence?

Isa 6:9-11; 2Pe 3:9

What good results come from the preaching work?

Ac 14:20-22; 19:9, 10

Why is it fitting to witness at every opportunity?

1Co 9:23; 1Ti 2:4; 1Pe 3:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 4:6, 7, 13, 14—Though tired out, Jesus shares the good news with a Samaritan woman at a public well

Php 1:12-14—Even when imprisoned for his faith, the apostle Paul uses the opportunities he has to give a witness and encourage others

Should we expect that everyone will listen to our message?

Joh 10:25, 26; 15:18-20; Ac 28:23-28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jer 7:23-26—Through Jeremiah, Jehovah describes how His people repeatedly failed to listen to His prophets

Mt 13:10-16—Jesus explains that just as in Isaiah's day, many will hear the message and fail to respond

Why are we not surprised that many people are too busy to listen?

Mt 13:22; 24:38, 39; Lu 17:28, 29

What shows that some will listen and respond at first but not continue?

Mr 4:14-17; Joh 6:65, 66

What examples help us not to be surprised when some directly oppose our preaching work?

Ac 13:50; 18:5, 6; 1Pe 4:12-14

How do we respond when faced with opposition to our preaching work?

Mt 5:10-12; 10:14, 23; Php 1:7

Why can we be sure that some will respond positively to the good news?

Lu 8:15; Joh 4:40, 41; Ac 16:14, 15; 17:11, 33, 34

Preachers of the good news bear what serious responsibility before God?

Ac 20:26, 27; 1Co 9:16, 17; 1Ti 4:16

See also Eze 33:8

Why should we preach to people of all religions, races, or nationalities?

Mt 24:14; Ac 10:34, 35; Re 14:6

See also Ps 49:1, 2

Is it proper to preach on any day of the week, including the Sabbath?

Ac 5:42; 13:42, 44; 16:13

What examples show that it is proper to preach to all, even if they have a Bible and practice a religion?

Ac 13:46; Ga 2:7, 8

PRESUMPTUOUSNESS

Pr 11:2; 13:10

See also Pr 21:24

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 6:6, 7—Uzzah is presumptuous and tries to steady Jehovah's sacred Ark; he is struck down for his irreverent and disobedient act

2Ch 26:16-21—King Uzziah is punished for his presumptuous spirit and action

PRIDE

Pride; haughtiness

Ps 138:6; Pr 16:5, 18; Jas 4:6, 16

See also Pr 21:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Es 5:9-14; 7:9, 10—Proud Haman feels insulted by Mordecai's refusal to bow to him, and ultimately, Haman's pride leads to his execution

Eze 28:11-15, 17, 19—Relying on his riches and strength, the king of Tyre becomes haughty and is later destroyed

QUARRELING

Why should Christians avoid quarreling?

Pr 17:14; 26:17; 2Ti 2:23

REASONABLENESS

Why should Christians be reasonable?

Php 4:5; Tit 3:2; Jas 3:17

See also 1Ti 3:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:23-33—Jehovah patiently allows Abraham to question Him regarding the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Ge 19:16-22, 30—Jehovah is reasonable with Lot, yielding to Lot's request to flee to Zoar instead of to the mountains

Mt 15:21-28—Jesus shows reasonableness, yielding to the pleas of a Phoenician woman because she demonstrates extraordinary faith

RECREATION

Is relaxing and enjoying some recreation appropriate for Christians?

Ec 2:24; 3:12, 13; 4:6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mr 6:31, 32—Even though Jesus is busy, he recommends that he and his disciples find a place where they can take time to rest

What principles can help us to avoid letting recreation crowd out spiritual activities?

Mt 6:21, 33; Eph 5:15-17; Php 1:9, 10; 1Ti 4:8

See also Pr 21:17; Ec 7:4

Why should we keep away from entertainment or recreation that promotes immoral conduct?

1Co 6:18; Eph 5:3, 4; Col 3:5; Jas 1:14, 15

Why should we avoid recreation that encourages an aggressive or overly competitive spirit?

Ec 4:4; Ga 5:26; 6:4

Why should we avoid recreation that promotes violence?

Ps 11:5; Pr 3:31; 6:16, 17

How can Christians determine what type of humor is appropriate?

Pr 15:21; 26:18, 19; Eph 5:3, 4

Why should we take into consideration the conscience of others when making decisions about recreation and entertainment?

Ro 14:13, 21; 1Co 8:13; 10:24

REMOVAL FROM THE CONGREGATION

Why must Christian elders remain vigilant about keeping the congregation clean?

2Ti 2:16, 17; 2Pe 2:1, 2; Jude 3, 4

How might the conduct of an individual Christian affect the entire congregation?

1Co 5:1, 2, 5, 6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jos 7:1, 4-14, 20-26—Achan's sin, in which his family was no doubt complicit, brings disaster on the whole nation

Jon 1:1-16—The prophet Jonah's rebellion endangers the lives of all the mariners on the boat with him

What kind of conduct cannot be tolerated in the Christian congregation?

Ro 16:17, 18; 1Co 5:11; 1Ti 1:20; Tit 3:10, 11

See also "Conduct of Christians"

What must be done regarding baptized Christians who make a practice of serious sin?

1Co 5:11-13

See also 1Jo 3:4, 6

When handling cases of serious wrongdoing, what Bible principles must elders keep in mind?

De 13:12-14; 17:2-4, 7; Mt 18:16; 2Co 13:1; 1Ti 5:19

See also Pr 18:13; 1Ti 5:21

Why is it necessary for some to be removed from the congregation or to be reproved, and how may the congregation benefit?

1Co 5:3-6; 1Ti 5:20

What does the Bible say about how we should treat those who have been removed from the congregation?

Ro 16:17; 1Co 5:11, 13

If a person who has been removed from the congregation later repents, what may happen?

2Co 2:6, 7

See also “Repentance”

How can all of us help to keep the congregation clean?

Le 5:1; Heb 12:15, 16

See also De 13:6-11

Why would it be a mistake for a Christian who commits a serious sin to cover the matter up, perhaps out of fear of being removed from the congregation?

Ps 32:1-5; Pr 28:13; Jas 5:14, 15

See also “Sin—Confession of Sins”

Why might it be wise in some cases to limit our association even with someone who is a part of the congregation?

1Co 15:33; 2Th 3:14; 2Ti 2:20, 21

If a Christian is slandered or defrauded, what might the victim choose to do, and why?

Mt 18:15-17, 21, 22; Col 3:12-14; 1Pe 4:8

Why should mature Christians offer helpful counsel to those who are acting unwisely?

Ga 6:1; Tit 2:3-5

REPENTANCE

Why do all humans need to turn to Jehovah God and repent?

Ro 3:23; 5:12; 1Jo 1:8

See also Ac 26:20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 18:9-14—Jesus gives an illustration to highlight that we need to confess our sins and pray for God’s help

Ro 7:15-25—Though an apostle and an outstanding man of faith, Paul is troubled by his own tendency to sin

What does the Bible reveal about Jehovah’s feelings for those who repent?

Eze 33:11; Ro 2:4; 2Pe 3:9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 15:1-10—Jesus uses illustrations to show that Jehovah and the angels rejoice when a sinner repents

Lu 19:1-10—Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and an extortionist, repents and changes his ways, receiving forgiveness and salvation

How do we show that we are truly repentant?

Eze 18:21-23; Ac 3:19; Eph 4:17, 22-24; Col 3:5-10

See also 1Pe 4:1-3

Why must a truly repentant person gain accurate knowledge?

Ro 12:2; Col 3:9, 10; 2Ti 2:25

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 17:29-31—The apostle Paul explains to the Athenians why idolatry is based on ignorance and urges them to repent

1Ti 1:12-15—Before gaining accurate knowledge about Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul in his ignorance committed terrible sins

How important is repentance?

Mr 1:14, 15; Lu 24:45-47; Ac 2:38; 17:30; 20:21

Why can we be confident that when we repent, Jehovah will extend forgiveness even if we sin many times?

Isa 1:18; Ga 6:1; 1Jo 2:1

How does Jehovah treat those who confess their sins and change their course?

Ps 32:5; Pr 28:13; 1Jo 1:9

See also “Mercy”

How do we know that repentance involves more than saying that we are sorry or feeling regret?

2Ch 7:14; Pr 28:13; Eze 18:30, 31; 33:14-16; Mt 3:8; Ac 3:19; 26:20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 33:1-6, 10-16—Despite a long course of wickedness, King Manasseh shows true repentance by humbling himself, by praying continually, and by changing his ways

Ps 32:1-6; 51:1-4, 17—King David shows repentance by deeply regretting his sins against Jehovah, by confessing, and by praying

When those who sinned against us are repentant, why should we forgive them?

Mt 6:14, 15; 18:21, 22; Lu 17:3, 4

See also “Forgiveness”

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Who alone has the authority to determine what is right or just?

De 32:4; Eze 33:17-20

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:23-33—Jehovah shows Abraham that He is a righteous Judge

Ps 72:1-4, 12-14—This inspired psalm praises the Messianic King, who perfectly reflects Jehovah's righteousness

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How do we benefit from living by Jehovah's righteous standards?

Ps 37:25, 29; Jas 5:16; 1Pe 3:12

See also Ps 35:24; Isa 26:9; Ro 1:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 37:22-24—Elihu praises the righteousness of Jehovah, who inspires profound awe in the heart of His servants

Ps 89:13-17—The psalmist praises Jehovah for basing His rulership on righteousness

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What does it mean to seek God's righteousness?

Eze 18:25-31; Mt 6:33; Ro 12:1, 2; Eph 4:23, 24

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 6:9, 22; 7:1—Noah proves himself righteous by carefully doing all that Jehovah asks of him

Ro 4:1-3, 9—Jehovah views Abraham as righteous because he shows remarkable faith in Him

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Why must our righteousness be based on love for Jehovah rather than on a desire to appear righteous before humans?

Mt 6:1; 23:27, 28; Lu 16:14, 15; Ro 10:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 5:20; 15:7-9—Jesus tells people to be righteous but not according to the standards set by the scribes and Pharisees, who are hypocritical

Lu 18:9-14—Jesus gives an illustration to correct those who seek to prove themselves righteous while looking down on others

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Why is goodness even better than righteousness?

Ro 5:7, 8

See also Lu 6:33-36; Ac 14:16, 17; Ro 12:20, 21; 1Th 5:15

Why should we avoid being self-righteous and resist any urge to prove ourselves more righteous than others?

Ec 7:16; Isa 65:5; Ro 10:3; 14:10

SELF-CONTROL

How does Jehovah show self-control?

Jer 18:7, 8; 2Pe 3:9

In what aspects of life do we need self-control?

Pr 16:32; 25:28; 1Co 9:25, 27

See also 2Ti 2:23-25; Tit 1:7, 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 16:5-14—King David exercises self-control when Shimei viciously curses and disrespects him

1Pe 2:21-23—The apostle Peter describes Jesus' remarkable self-control in the face of provocation and suffering

What will help us to strengthen our self-control?

Lu 11:9-13; Ga 5:22, 23; Eph 4:23, 24; Col 4:2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 11:5-8—Jesus emphasizes the need for us to be persistent when asking for help

SETTLING PERSONAL DIFFERENCES

When someone offends us, why should we avoid getting angry or being vengeful?

Pr 20:22; 24:29; Ro 12:17, 18; Jas 1:19, 20; 1Pe 3:8, 9

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 25:9-13, 23-35—When Nabal insults David and his men and refuses to provide aid, David impulsively decides to kill him and the males of his household, but Abigail's wise counsel helps David avoid bloodguilt

Pr 24:17-20—Under inspiration, King Solomon warns God's people that it is displeasing to Jehovah to rejoice when an enemy falls; we leave justice in Jehovah's hands

If a Christian has a dispute with someone, should he avoid speaking to that person or hold a grudge against him?

Le 19:17, 18; 1Co 13:4, 5; Eph 4:26

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 5:23, 24—Jesus explains that we should go to great lengths to make peace with a brother who has something against us

What is the most loving course to take when we are offended?

Pr 10:12; 19:11; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

Why should we forgive even those who have sinned against us repeatedly if they sincerely repent?

Mt 18:21, 22; Mr 11:25; Lu 17:3, 4; Col 3:13; 1Pe 4:8

If an offense is so serious that we cannot let go of it—for instance, in the case of slander or fraud—who should speak to the offender, and with what objective?

Mt 18:15

See also Jas 5:20

If someone who has slandered or defrauded us refuses to repent when we speak to him alone, what should we do?

Mt 18:16, 17

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Brazen conduct; uncleanness; adultery

Ex 20:13-17; Mr 7:21-23; 1Co 6:9, 10, 18; Ga 5:19, 21; Eph 5:5; 1Pe 4:3

See also Le 20:10; Pr 6:32; Ro 13:13; Eph 4:19; 5:3; 2Pe 2:2, 7, 8, 18, 19

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 39:7-12—Potiphar's wife repeatedly attempts to seduce Joseph, but he resists her every effort

2Sa 12:7-14—King David's adultery with Bath-sheba leads to years of trouble and tragedy in David's family

SIN

What is sin, and why does it affect all of us?

Ps 51:5; Ro 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; 1Jo 3:4; 5:17

How does the Bible assure us that we can fight against our sinful tendencies?

Ro 6:12-14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 11:2-5, 14, 15, 26, 27; 12:1-13—King David commits very serious sins, faces strong discipline, and tries hard to correct his ways

Ro 7:15-24—The apostle Paul, an excellent example of faith and godly devotion, describes his struggle with his own sinful tendencies

How do ignorance and deception cause many people to sin?

Ac 3:17; 17:29, 30; 1Ti 1:13; 1Pe 1:14

See also Nu 15:27-29

Why is the deliberate practice of sin especially serious?

Heb 10:26, 27; 1Jo 3:4, 8, 9

See also Nu 15:30; Ro 1:28-32; 1Ti 5:20

What might Satan use to tempt God's servants to sin?

Pr 1:10, 11, 15; Mt 5:28; Jas 1:14, 15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 3:1-6—Speaking through a serpent, Satan tempts Eve by appealing to her selfish desires and by undermining her confidence in Jehovah

Pr 7:6-10, 21-23—King Solomon describes how a young man who is lacking good sense gives in to temptation from an immoral woman

How can we resist Satan's temptations?

Eph 4:27; 6:10-18; Jas 4:7, 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 5:1-14—King Solomon offers inspired fatherly advice on why and how to avoid the temptation to commit immorality

Mt 4:1-11—Jesus sets the perfect example in resisting Satan's clever temptations by relying on God's Word

What are some examples of serious sins that Christians must avoid?

See "Wrong Practices"

CONFESSION OF SINS

Why should we not try to hide our sins?

Pr 28:13; Ro 14:12; 1Ti 5:24; Heb 4:13

To whom must we confess all sins?

Ps 32:5; Mt 6:9-14

Who acts as "a helper" by interceding in our behalf before Jehovah?

1Jo 2:1; Ro 5:1, 2; 8:34; Eph 2:13, 18; 5:1, 2; Heb 7:25

Can a sinner show his repentance by means of his actions?

Ac 26:20; Jas 4:8-10

See also "Repentance"

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 22:1-12—Under the Mosaic Law, a thief is required to make compensation to his victims for what he stole

Lu 19:8, 9—The chief tax collector Zacchaeus shows his repentance by changing his ways and by making restitution to those whom he wronged

Why may we be confident in Jehovah's forgiveness?

See "Forgiveness"

What arrangement has Jehovah put in place to provide help and to protect the congregation when someone commits a serious sin?

Jas 5:14, 15

See also Ac 20:28; Ga 6:1

How might a serious sin affect others in our family or in the congregation?

Heb 12:15, 16

See also De 29:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jos 7:1-13, 20-26—Achan brings disaster on all of Israel by committing a serious sin and attempting to conceal it

Jon 1:1-16—Because he is rebelling against Jehovah, the prophet Jonah puts in danger the lives of all those in the ship with him

1Co 5:1-7—The apostle Paul exposes a case of serious sin in Corinth that is damaging the entire congregation

Why should the fear of discipline never keep us from seeking help from the elders?

Pr 3:11, 12; Heb 12:5-7, 11; Jas 5:14, 15

Why should we accept God's forgiveness rather than grieve endlessly over a past wrongdoing?

See "Forgiveness"

If we become aware of a serious sin, why should we make sure that the sinner brings the matter to the attention of the congregation elders?

Le 5:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 13:6-9; 21:18-20—The Mosaic Law requires that a person report the serious sin of even a family member or a loved one

SINGLENESS

Why can singleness rightly be considered a gift?

Mt 19:10-12; 1Co 7:7, 37, 38

Why would it be wrong to pressure a single Christian to marry?

1Co 7:28, 32-35; 1Th 4:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ro 14:10-12—The apostle Paul explains why it is wrong to judge a fellow Christian

1Co 9:3-5—The apostle Paul has the right to marry; yet, his single state allows him to focus on his ministry

Should single people feel that they must be married to have a fulfilling life?

1Co 7:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jg 11:30-40—Jephthah's daughter remains unmarried and has a meaningful life

Ac 20:35—Christ's words suggest that though unmarried he was happy because he gave to others

1Th 1:2-9; 2:12—The apostle Paul, a single man, describes the joyous and fulfilling results of his ministry

Why must single people, like all servants of God, maintain clean moral conduct?

1Co 6:18; Ga 5:19-21; Eph 5:3, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 7:7-23—King Solomon describes the tragic outcome for a young man who allows himself to be enticed by an immoral woman

Ca 4:12; 8:8-10—The Shulammite girl is described in terms that praise her for her chaste conduct

Under what circumstances would it be wise for a single person to consider marriage?

1Co 7:9, 36

See also 1Th 4:4, 5

SOCIAL DISTINCTIONS

Does race, ancestry, or economic status make anyone superior in God's eyes?

Ac 17:26, 27; Ro 3:23-27; Ga 2:6; 3:28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 8:31-40—Certain Jews take pride in claiming Abraham as their ancestor; yet, Jesus corrects them because they act nothing like Abraham

Is there any basis for looking down on people who are of another race or nation?

Joh 3:16; Ro 2:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jon 4:1-11—Jehovah patiently teaches the prophet Jonah to show mercy to the Ninevites, people of a different nationality

Ac 10:1-8, 24-29, 34, 35—The apostle Peter learns that he should not consider Gentiles unclean, so he helps Cornelius and his household to become the first uncircumcised Gentile Christians

Should wealthy Christians feel superior to others or expect special treatment?

1Ti 6:17, 18; Jas 2:2-4

See also De 8:12-14; Jer 9:23, 24

Does having a position of oversight mean that a person is superior to others and can be overly demanding?

2Co 1:24; 1Pe 5:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 17:18-20—Jehovah warns that no king in Israel should exalt himself over His people, who in God's eyes are the king's brothers

Mr 10:35-45—Jesus corrects his apostles for their excessive interest in positions of authority. (See also study note on Mr 10:42, "lord it over them")

What determines whether a person has God's approval?

Ex 19:5; Ro 10:12; 1Jo 2:17

Should Christians get involved in social reform movements?

Eph 6:5-9; 1Ti 6:1, 2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Joh 6:14, 15—The people might expect Jesus to do good as a social reformer, but he refuses to be made a secular king

STEALING

Ex 20:15; Eph 4:28; 1Pe 4:15

See also Jer 2:26; Mt 19:17, 18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Eze 33:14-16—Jehovah promises to forgive wicked ones, including thieves who repent and change their ways

Joh 12:4-6—Judas Iscariot becomes not only a thief but also a traitor

STUDY

Why must a Christian study God's Word regularly?

Ps 1:1-3; Pr 18:15; 1Ti 4:6; 2Ti 2:15

See also Ac 17:11

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ps 119:97-101—The inspired psalmist expresses his love for God's law and recounts the benefits of applying it in his life

Da 9:1-3, ftn.—From his study of the sacred books, the prophet Daniel is able to discern that Israel's 70-year exile is drawing to a close

Why do we need to continue to take in knowledge?

Heb 6:1-3; 2Pe 3:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 4:18—Just like the morning light that gets brighter and brighter, a spiritual person's understanding of Bible truth gets clearer and clearer, as Jehovah reveals it

Mt 24:45-47—Jesus foretells that he will appoint a "faithful and discreet slave" who will be responsible for providing timely spiritual food during the last days

Why should we value the Bible's wisdom over any wisdom found in books of human philosophy?

Ec 12:11-13; 1Co 3:19; 1Ti 6:20, 21; 2Pe 1:19-21

What does Jehovah promise to give to those who sincerely study the Bible?

Pr 2:4-6; 9:10; Joh 6:45

In order to benefit from our personal Bible study, for what do we need to pray?

Lu 11:13; 1Co 2:10; Jas 1:5

See also Ps 119:66

Why should we make full use of the spiritual food provided through "the faithful and discreet slave"?

Mt 24:45-47

See also Mt 4:4; 1Ti 4:15

Why should we seek accurate knowledge, paying attention even to details?

Php 1:9, 10; Col 1:9, 10

How important is it that we gain wisdom and understanding?

Pr 4:7; Ec 7:25

Why should we read slowly and deliberately and think about what we read?

Jos 1:8; Ps 1:2

Why should we consider how God's Word applies to our own life?

Ro 15:4; 1Co 10:11; 2Ti 3:16, 17; Jas 1:22-25

Why should we meditate on how to share with others what we have learned?

Pr 15:28; 1Pe 3:15

How might it help us if we repeatedly study important truths?

2Pe 1:13; 3:1, 2

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

De 6:6, 7; 11:18-20—Jehovah commands his people to inculcate his words in their children, to teach them his words by repetition

What are the benefits of discussing God's Word as a family?

Eph 6:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 18:17-19—Jehovah wants Abraham to teach his household to pursue a righteous course in life

Ps 78:5-7—In Israel, each generation is expected to teach the next one so that the people will continue to put their confidence in Jehovah

How does studying together with the congregation help us?

Heb 10:25

See also Pr 18:1

WAR

Why should we expect that there would be many wars during our time?

Mt 24:3, 4, 7, 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 11:40—The prophet Daniel foresees that two rival political foes will engage in a pushing, or a rivalry, in the last days

Re 6:1-4—The apostle John sees a vision of a fiery-colored horse representing warfare, and the one seated on it is allowed "to take peace away from the earth"

What will Jehovah do about human warfare?

Ps 46:8, 9; Isa 9:6, 7; Mic 4:3

What position do Christians take regarding the wars of the nations?

Isa 2:2, 4

See also "Governments—Christians Remain Neutral"

What kind of warfare is waged by Jehovah God and his appointed Warrior-King?

Ps 45:3-5; Jer 25:31-33; Re 19:11

What is the only kind of warfare in which true Christians engage?

Ro 13:12; 2Co 10:3, 4; Eph 6:11-17

How can Christians avoid promoting a warlike, quarrelsome, or vengeful spirit within the congregation?

Ro 12:17-21; Ga 5:14, 15; Tit 3:1, 2; Jas 4:1-3

WISDOM

What is necessary if we are to find true wisdom?

Pr 9:10; 15:33

Where can we find true wisdom?

Pr 2:6; Ec 2:26; Jer 8:9; 2Ti 3:15

Is it appropriate to pray to God for wisdom?

Col 1:9; Jas 1:5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 1:8-12—Young King Solomon prays for the wisdom to rule Israel properly, and Jehovah is pleased to grant his request

Pr 2:1-5—Wisdom, understanding, and discernment are likened to hidden treasures that are well worth seeking, and Jehovah rewards those who search diligently for them

Through whom and with the help of what does Jehovah provide wisdom?

Isa 11:2; 1Co 1:24, 30; 2:13; Eph 1:17; Col 2:2, 3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 8:1-3, 22-31—Wisdom is personified and identified with the Son of God, the firstborn of all creation

Mt 13:51-54—Many of Jesus' listeners cannot understand how a man who grew up among them could have such profound wisdom

What are some characteristics of godly wisdom?

Ps 111:10; Ec 8:1; Jas 3:13-17

See also Ps 107:43; Pr 1:1-5

Wisdom offers what guidance and protection in life?

Pr 2:10-13; 3:21-23; 4:5-7

See also Pr 7:2-5; Ec 7:12

How valuable is wisdom from God?

Pr 3:13, 14; 8:11

See also Job 28:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 28:12, 15-19—Even though suffering terribly from grief, pain, and loss, Job extols the value of divine wisdom

Ps 19:7-9—King David says that Jehovah's law and reminder can give wisdom even to those who lack experience

How can worldly wisdom, which ignores God, bring us harm?

1Co 1:19, 20; 3:19; Col 2:8; 1Ti 6:20

See also Ec 12:11, 12; Ro 1:22, 23

WIVES

See "Marriage"

WORK

What is the connection between work and joy?

Ec 2:24; 3:13, 22; Isa 65:22

What are some advantages of learning to do good and skillful work?

Pr 22:29

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 16:16-23—Young David earns a reputation as a skillful musician, a talent that makes him useful to the troubled king of Israel

2Ch 2:13, 14—Because of his skill as a craftsman, Hiram-abi is useful to King Solomon in a great building work

Servants of Jehovah want to be known as what kind of workers?

Eph 4:28; Col 3:23

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 24:10-21—Rebekah does far more for Abraham's servant than she is asked to do, showing a helpful and industrious spirit

Php 2:19-23—The apostle Paul entrusts the young man Timothy with a weighty assignment because of his willingness to work hard and humbly for others

Why do servants of God fight any tendency toward laziness?

Pr 13:4; 18:9; 21:25, 26; Ec 10:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Pr 6:6-11—King Solomon uses the ant to teach lessons about working hard and avoiding laziness

Why should we work hard to care for our needs?

2Th 3:10-12; 1Ti 5:18

Why should we work hard to care for our dependent family members?

1Ti 5:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ru 1:16, 17; 2:2, 3, 6, 7, 17, 18—The young widow Ruth works diligently to care for her mother-in-law, Naomi

Mt 15:4-9—Jesus denounces those who use a spiritual pretext to dodge their responsibility to care for their parents

What should Christians be willing to do with the benefits of their hard work?

Ro 12:13; 2Co 8:1-4; 9:5, 7, 11; 1Ti 6:17, 18

What balanced attitude should we have toward the wages we earn doing secular work?

Pr 30:8; 2Th 3:12; 1Ti 6:6-10; Heb 13:5

How do we know that Jehovah is interested in helping us to carry out our work well and to care for our material needs?

Mt 6:25, 30-32; Lu 11:2, 3; 2Co 9:10

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 31:3-13—Laban treats Jacob, his son-in-law and employee, unfairly, but Jehovah sees hardworking Jacob and blesses him

Ge 39:1-6, 20-23—Jehovah blesses Joseph's work, both as a slave in Potiphar's house and as a prisoner

Why must our secular work never become more important than our service to God?

Ps 39:5-7; Mt 6:33; Joh 6:27

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 12:15-21—Jesus gives an illustration to teach that it is foolish to put material gain ahead of spiritual wealth

1Ti 6:17-19—The apostle Paul warns wealthy Christians of the danger of arrogance and encourages them to be "rich in fine works"

What principles should guide us in our choice of employment?

Ex 20:4; Ac 15:29; Eph 4:28; Re 21:8—Would the work require me to engage in any practice that God condemns?

Ex 21:22-24; Isa 2:4; 1Co 6:9, 10; 2Co 7:1—Would the work support or promote a practice that God condemns, making me an accomplice?

Ro 13:1-7; Tit 3:1, 2—Would the work require that I violate any secular laws?

2Co 6:14-16; Re 18:2, 4—Would the work make me a part of or a supporter of false religion?

Working for Jehovah

What is the most important work that Christians can engage in?

Mt 28:19, 20; Lu 9:2; 2Ti 4:2, 5

Why are we eager to do our very best in our service to Jehovah?

Lu 13:24; Ro 12:11; 1Co 15:58; Heb 6:10-12

See also 1Ti 3:1

Why should we not expect that all can do the same amount in Jehovah's service?

Ga 6:3-5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 25:14, 15—Jesus' illustration shows that he does not expect all his followers to accomplish the same amount of work

Lu 21:2-4—Jesus kindly acknowledges the great value of the tiny contribution made by a needy widow

From where do we get the strength to carry out the work we are assigned to do in Jehovah's service?

2Co 4:7; Eph 3:20, 21; Php 4:13

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ti 4:17—The apostle Paul acknowledges that he received the power he needed when he needed it

Why does working diligently in Jehovah's service result in joy?

Ps 40:8; Joh 13:17; Jas 1:25

See also Mt 25:23

WORSHIP

To whom alone may worship be properly directed?

Ex 34:14; De 5:8-10; Isa 42:8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 4:8-10—Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for an act of worship; Jesus rejects the offer, determined to worship only Jehovah

Re 19:9, 10—A mighty angel refuses worship from the apostle John

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How does Jehovah expect to be worshipped?

Joh 4:24; Jas 1:26, 27

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Isa 1:10-17—Jehovah rejects and despises hypocritical acts of worship from people who refuse to live by his standards

Mt 15:1-11—Jesus shows that Jehovah does not accept formalistic worship, which puts human commands above the laws of God

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Whenever possible, with whom should we worship Jehovah?

Heb 10:24, 25

See also Ps 133:1-3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 2:40-42—In the first century, Christians gathered together to pray, to associate, and to study teachings inspired by holy spirit

1Co 14:26-40—The apostle Paul directs that the congregation meetings be orderly and encouraging so that all can learn and understand what is being taught

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What should we do to make sure that our worship is acceptable to Jehovah?

Mt 7:21-24; 1Jo 2:17; 5:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Heb 11:6—The apostle Paul explains that faith is essential if we want to worship Jehovah acceptably

Jas 2:14-17, 24-26—James, Jesus' half brother, explains that our faith must be accompanied by works; our faith moves us to action

WRONG ATTITUDES

What wrong attitudes should Christians avoid?

Anger

Ps 37:8, 9; Pr 29:22; Col 3:8

See also Pr 14:17; 15:18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 37:18, 19, 23, 24, 31-35—Joseph's brothers attack him, sell him as a slave, and deceive Jacob into thinking that his beloved son is dead

Ge 49:5-7—Simeon and Levi are called to account for their cruel anger and harsh fury

1Sa 20:30-34—In a fit of anger, King Saul insults his son Jonathan and tries to kill him

1Sa 25:14-17—Nabal screams insults at David's men, putting his own household in mortal danger

Contentiousness

Php 2:3; Jas 3:14-16

Cowardice

2Ti 1:7; Re 21:8

Cruelty

De 15:7, 8; Mt 19:8; 1Jo 3:17

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 42:21-24—Joseph's brothers recall with regret their cruel treatment of Joseph

Mr 3:1-6—Jesus is thoroughly grieved by the cruel attitude of the Pharisees

Disrespect

See "Disrespect"

Egotism

Ga 5:26; Php 2:3

See also Pr 3:7; 26:12; Ro 12:16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 15:1-6—Absalom indulges in showy displays and seeks to steal the people's hearts away from King David, his father

Da 4:29-32—King Nebuchadnezzar is prideful, which leads to his receiving discipline from Jehovah

Envy; covetousness

Ro 13:9; 1Pe 2:1

See also Ga 5:26; Tit 3:3

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 26:12-15—Jehovah blesses hardworking Isaac, and the Philistines begin to envy him

1Ki 21:1-19—Wicked King Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard, which leads to conspiracy and murder

Fear of man

Ps 118:6; Pr 29:25; Mt 10:28

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 13:25-33—Ten of the Israelite spies are overcome with fear and spread that fear among the people

Mt 26:69-75—The apostle Peter's fear of man leads him to deny Jesus three times

Greediness

See "Greediness"

Hatred

Pr 10:12; Tit 3:3; 1Jo 4:20

See also Nu 35:19-21; Mt 5:43, 44

Hypocrisy

See "Hypocrisy"

Jealousy

See "Jealousy"

Laziness

Pr 6:6-11; Ec 10:18; Ro 12:11

See also Pr 10:26; 19:15; 26:13

Love of money, material things

Mt 6:24; 1Ti 6:10; Heb 13:5

See also 1Jo 2:15, 16

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Job 31:24-28—Though wealthy, Job avoids the snare of materialism

Mr 10:17-27—A wealthy young man loves his possessions too much to leave them behind and follow Jesus

Malicious bitterness

1Sa 30:6; Eph 4:31; Col 3:19

See also Jas 3:14

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ob 10-14—The Edomites are condemned for showing malicious bitterness toward their brothers, the Israelites

Presumptuousness

See "Presumptuousness"

Pride; haughtiness

See "Pride"

Quarrelsomeness

Pr 26:20; 1Ti 3:2, 3; Tit 3:2

See also Pr 15:18; 17:14; 27:15; Jas 3:17, 18

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 13:5-9—A quarrel arises between the herdsmen of Abraham and those of Lot, but Abraham makes peace

Jg 8:1-3—The men of Ephraim try to pick a quarrel with Judge Gideon, but his humility leads to peace

Rebelliousness

1Sa 15:23; Jude 4, 8, 10, 11

See also De 21:18-21; Ps 78:7, 8; Tit 1:10

Self-righteousness

Ec 7:16; Mt 7:1-5; Ro 14:4, 10-13

See also Isa 65:5; Lu 6:37

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mt 12:1-7—Jesus exposes the self-righteous attitude of the Pharisees

Lu 18:9-14—Jesus uses an illustration to show that self-righteous ones do not gain God's favor

Stubbornness

Jer 13:10

See also Jer 7:23-27; Zec 7:11, 12

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 36:11-17—Zedekiah proves to be a wicked and stubborn king, leading his people to disaster

Ac 19:8, 9—The apostle Paul withdraws from those who stubbornly refuse to believe the Kingdom message

Unreasonableness

Mr 7:21-23; Eph 5:17

See also 1Pe 2:15

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 8:10-20—The Israelites react unreasonably to the prophet Samuel when he speaks to them about why it is unwise to have a human king

1Sa 25:2-13, 34—Nabal's refusal to respond to a reasonable plea for aid nearly brings disaster on his entire household

Wicked suspicions and accusations

Job 1:9-11; 1Ti 6:4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 18:6-9; 20:30-34—King Saul suspects David of disloyalty and even tries to turn Jonathan against him

WRONG PRACTICES

What wrong practices should Christians avoid?

Abusive speech

Mt 5:22; 1Co 6:9, 10; Eph 4:31

See also Ex 22:28; Ec 10:20; Jude 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Sa 16:5-8; 1Ki 2:8, 9, 44, 46—Shimei reviles Jehovah's anointed king and suffers the consequences

Accepting or offering bribes

Ex 23:8; Ps 26:9, 10; Pr 17:23

See also De 10:17; 16:19; Ps 15:1, 5

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 8:1-5—Instead of following their father's good example, the sons of the prophet Samuel accept bribes and pervert justice

Ne 6:10-13—Shemaiah is hired by opposers to utter a false prophecy intended to scare Governor Nehemiah and slow down Jehovah's work

Bragging

See “Bragging”

Brazen conduct; uncleanness; immorality; adultery

See “Sexual Immorality”

Competitions; rivalry

Ec 4:4; Ga 5:26

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Mr 9:33-37; 10:35-45—Jesus repeatedly corrects his apostles for their tendency to compete for positions of prominence

3Jo 9, 10—Diotrephes desires to have “the first place” among the brothers

Creating divisions; promoting a sect

Ro 16:17; Ga 5:19, 20; Tit 3:10, 11; 2Pe 2:1

See also Ac 20:29, 30; 1Co 1:10-12; Re 2:6, 15

Drunkenness; excessive drinking

Pr 20:1; 23:20, 29-35; 1Co 5:11; 6:9, 10

See also Eph 5:18; 1Ti 3:8; Tit 2:3; 1Pe 4:3
See also “Drinking”

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 9:20-25—Noah gets drunk, which creates an opportunity for Ham and his son Canaan to commit a serious sin

Da 5:1-6, 30—Under the influence of wine, King Belshazzar insults Jehovah, bringing disaster on himself and his kingdom

Extortion

Ps 62:10; 1Co 5:10, 11; 6:9, 10

See also Pr 1:19; 15:27

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Jer 22:11-17—Jehovah condemns King Shallum (Jehoahaz) for extortion and other serious sins

Lu 19:2, 8—Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, repents of his sin of extortion and promises to make reparations

Ac 24:26, 27—The apostle Paul did not give Governor Felix the bribe that the governor was hoping for

Flattery

Job 32:21, 22; Ps 5:9; 12:2, 3; Pr 26:24-28; 29:5

See also Pr 28:23; 1Th 2:3-6

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Lu 18:18, 19—Jesus rejects a flattering title

Ac 12:21-23—King Herod Agrippa accepts flattery implying that he is a god; he is struck dead for his sin

Gluttony

Pr 23:20, 21; 28:7

See also Lu 21:34, 35

Harmful gossiping; being a busybody

Pr 25:23; 1Th 4:11; 2Th 3:11; 1Pe 4:15

See also Pr 20:19; 1Ti 5:13

Idolatry

See “Idolatry”

Lying; proving false to agreements

See “Lying”

Lying; slander

See “Lying”

Misuse of blood

Ge 9:4; De 12:16, 23; Ac 15:28, 29

See also Le 3:17; 7:26

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

1Sa 14:32-34—The Israelites sin against Jehovah by eating meat without first bleeding it properly

Murder

Ex 20:13; Mt 15:19; 1Pe 4:15

See also Mt 5:21, 22; Mr 7:21

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ge 4:4-16—Despite Jehovah’s loving counsel, Cain murders his righteous brother Abel

1Ki 21:1-26; 2Ki 9:26—Greed leads wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel to arrange for the murder of Naboth and his sons

Murmuring

1Co 10:10; Php 2:14; Jude 16

See also Nu 11:1

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Nu 14:1-11, 26-30—The Israelites murmur against Moses and Aaron, but Jehovah sees it as murmuring against Him

Joh 6:41-69—The Jews murmur against Jesus; some of his disciples abandon him

Obscene talk or jesting

Eph 5:4; Col 3:8

See also Eph 4:29, 31

Pornography

See “Pornography”

Quarreling

See “Quarreling”

Ridiculing

Pr 19:29; 24:9

See also Pr 17:5; 22:10; 2Pe 3:3, 4

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

2Ch 36:15-21—God’s rebellious people pay dearly for ridiculing his messengers and mocking his prophets

Job 12:4; 17:2; 21:3; 34:7—During his difficult trial, righteous Job suffers ridicule

Stealing

See “Stealing”

Strife; violence

Ps 11:5; Pr 3:31; 29:22

See also 1Ti 3:2, 3; Tit 1:7

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ex 21:22-27—The Mosaic Law exacts punishment from men who cause injury or death through physical violence

Threatening

Eph 6:9; 1Pe 2:23

See also Ps 10:4, 7; 73:3, 8

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Ac 4:15-21—The Sanhedrin threatens Jesus’ disciples in an attempt to stop the preaching work

Wild parties

Ro 13:13; Ga 5:19, 21; 1Pe 4:3

See also Pr 20:1; 1Co 10:31

RELEVANT BIBLE ACCOUNT(S):

Da 5:1-4, 30—King Belshazzar’s “great feast” leads to excessive drinking and a catastrophic decision to blaspheme Jehovah